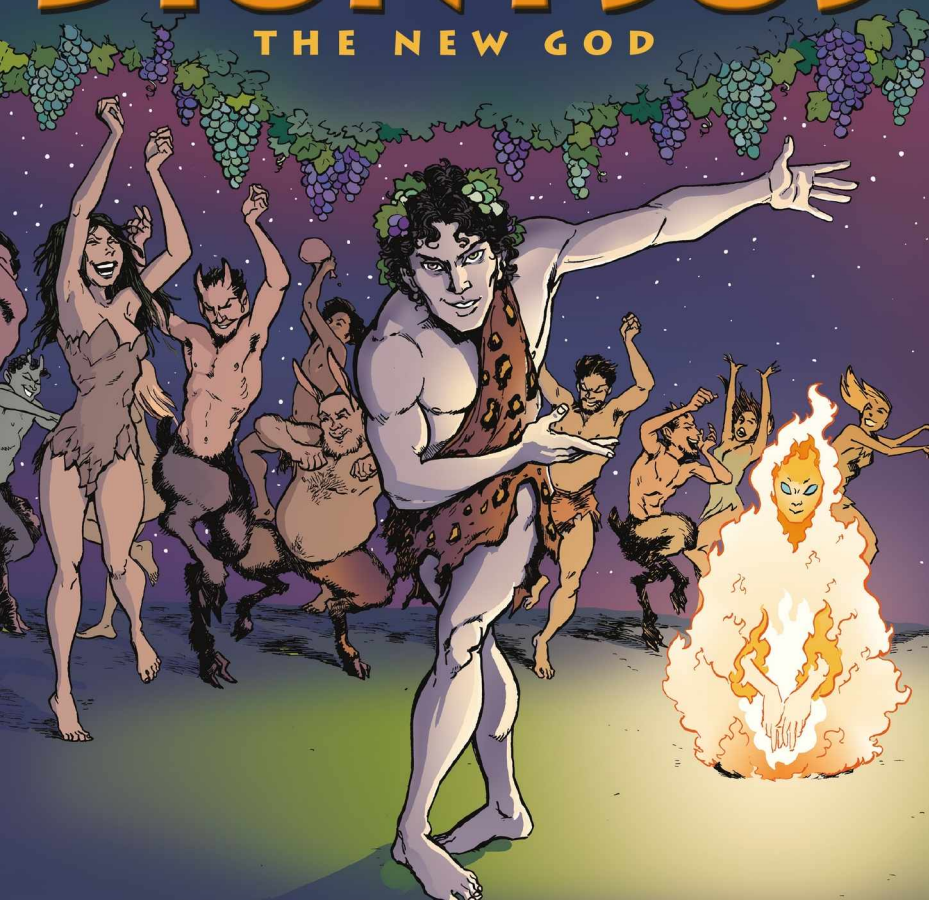
OLYMPIANS

DIONYSOS

THE NEW GOD



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

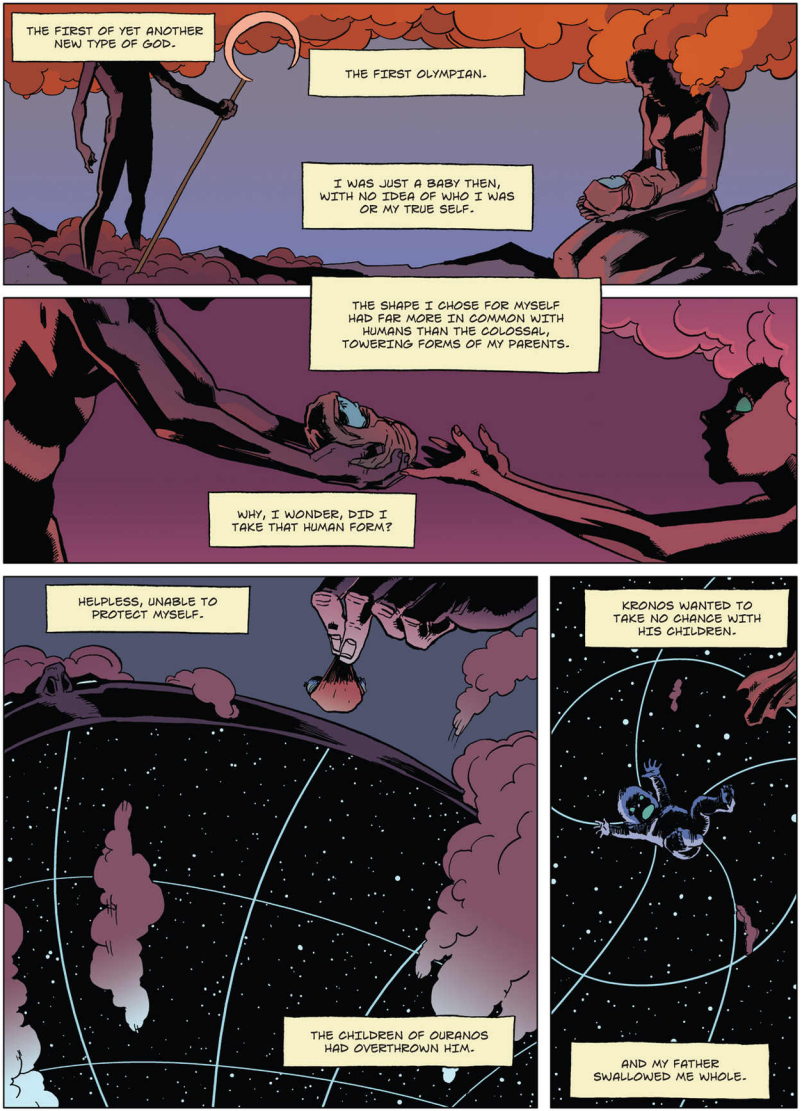
GEORGE O'CONNOR

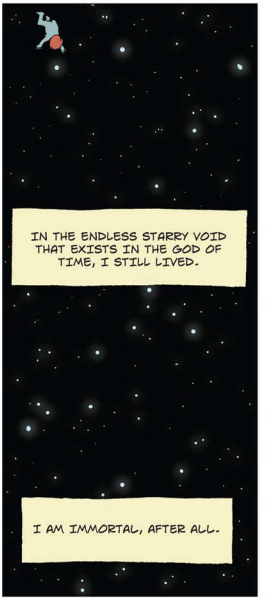
IN THE TIME BEFORE TIME,
THERE WAS NOTHING, KAOS.

FROM KAOS CAME GAEA,
OUR GRANDMOTHER EARTH.
AND FROM GAEA CAME
OURANOS, THE SKY.

YOU KNOW THIS STORY ALREADY.

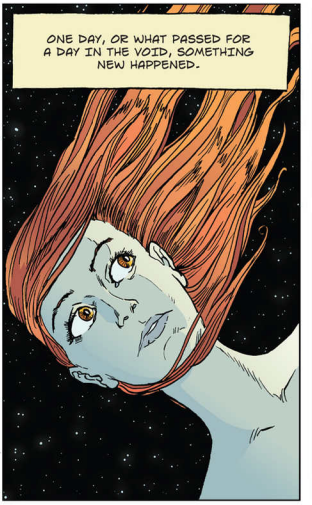
GAEA MADE OURANOS HER HUSBAND, AND HE FATHERED HER CHILDREN, THE TITANS.
A NEW TYPE OF GOD. THE GODS OF TIME.
AND THE TITANS OVERTHREW OURANOS.
OTHER CREATURES CAME INTO BEING. CYCLOPES, HEKATONCHIERES, NYMPHS, GIGANTES...
...HUMANS...
...AND ME.
THE FIRSTBORN CHILD OF KRONOS, KING OF THE TITANS, AND RHEA.


THE FIRST OF YET ANOTHER NEW TYPE OF GOD.
THE FIRST OLYMPIAN.
I WAS JUST A BABY THEN, WITH NO IDEA OF WHO I WAS OR MY TRUE SELF.
THE SHAPE I CHOSE FOR MYSELF HAD FAR MORE IN COMMON WITH HUMANS THAN THE COLOSSAL, TOWERING FORMS OF MY PARENTS.
WHY, I WONDER, DID I TAKE THAT HUMAN FORM?
HELPLESS, UNABLE TO PROTECT MYSELF.
THE CHILDREN OF OURANOS HAD OVERTHROWN HIM.
KRONOS WANTED TO TAKE NO CHANCE WITH HIS CHILDREN.
AND MY FATHER SWALLOWED ME WHOLE.

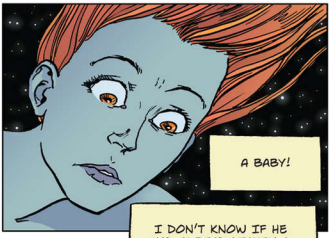

IN THE ENDLESS STARRY VOID THAT EXISTS IN THE GOD OF TIME, I STILL LIVED.
I AM IMMORTAL, AFTER ALL.

TIME PASSED, AND I GREW OLDER.

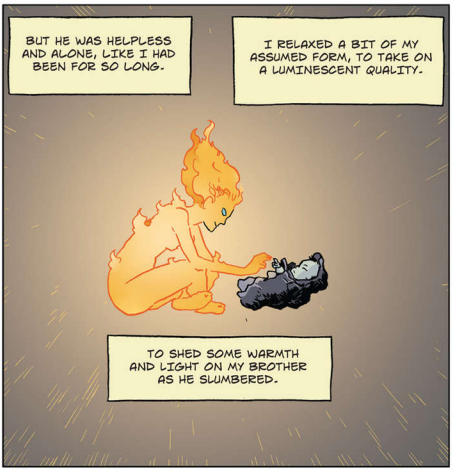
STUBBORNLY, I STILL HELD ON TO MY HUMAN FORM.
AND SO I LIVED, ALONE IN THE DARKNESS, FOR I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG.


ONE DAY, OR WHAT PASSED FOR A DAY IN THE VOID, SOMETHING NEW HAPPENED.

I SWAM OVER TO INSPECT THIS NEW ARRIVAL.

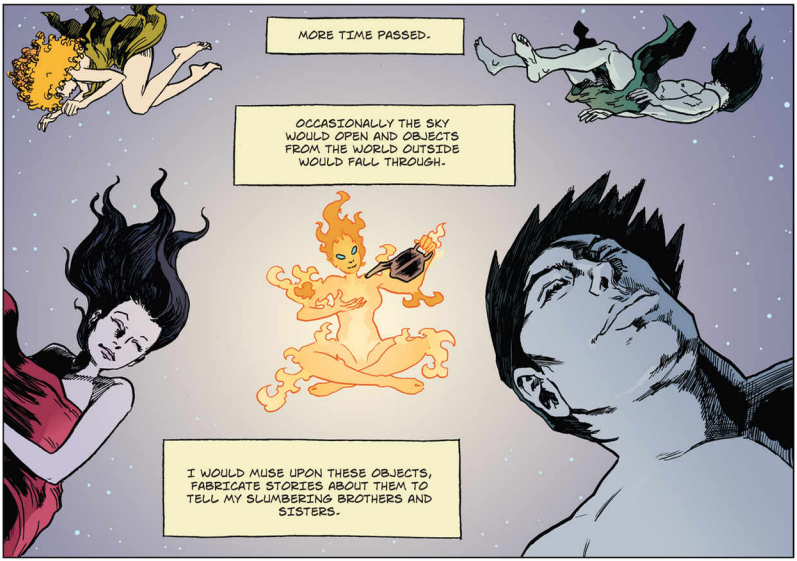

A BABY!

I DON'T KNOW IF HE HAD ALREADY TAKEN A HUMAN FORM BEFORE BEING SWALLOWED, OR IF I HAD SOMEHOW INSPIRED HIM.

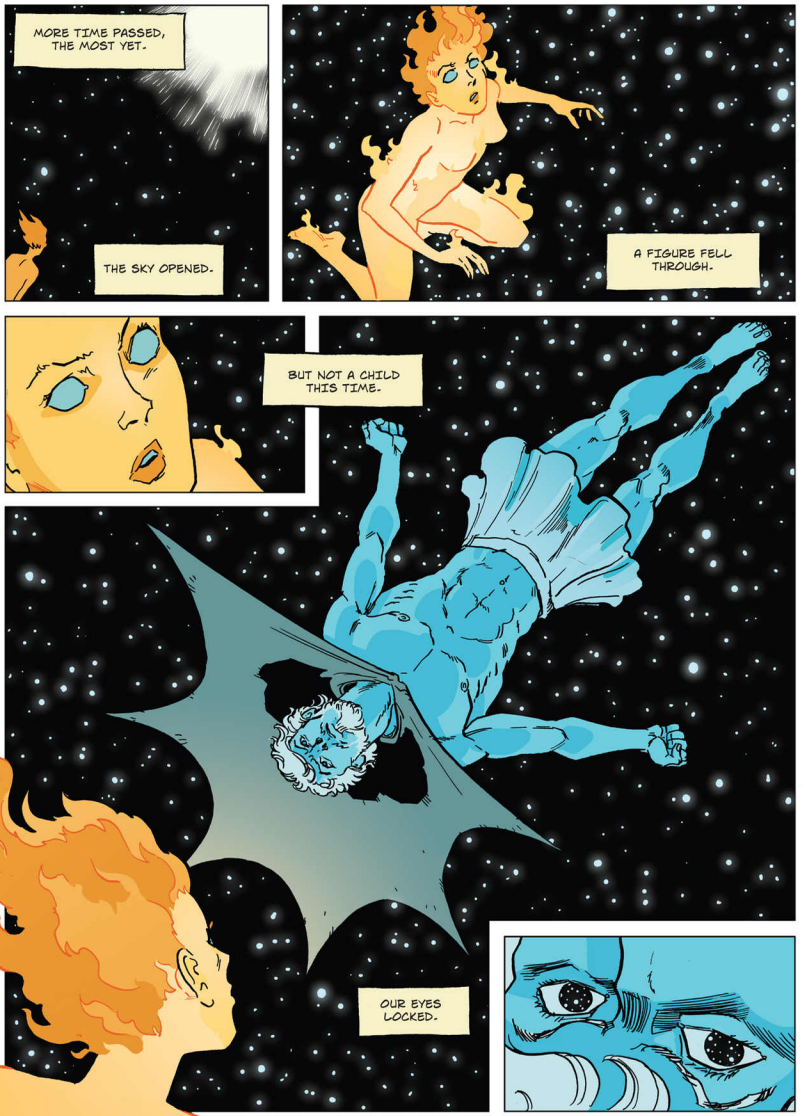

BUT HE WAS HELPLESS AND ALONE, LIKE I HAD BEEN FOR SO LONG.
I RELAXED A BIT OF MY ASSUMED FORM, TO TAKE ON A LUMINESCENT QUALITY.
TO SHED SOME WARMTH AND LIGHT ON MY BROTHER AS HE SLUMBERED.

MORE TIME PASSED, AND MORE CHILDREN OF KRONOS JOINED US. I RELAXED MY FORM FURTHER.
MORE CHILDREN TO KEEP WARM.

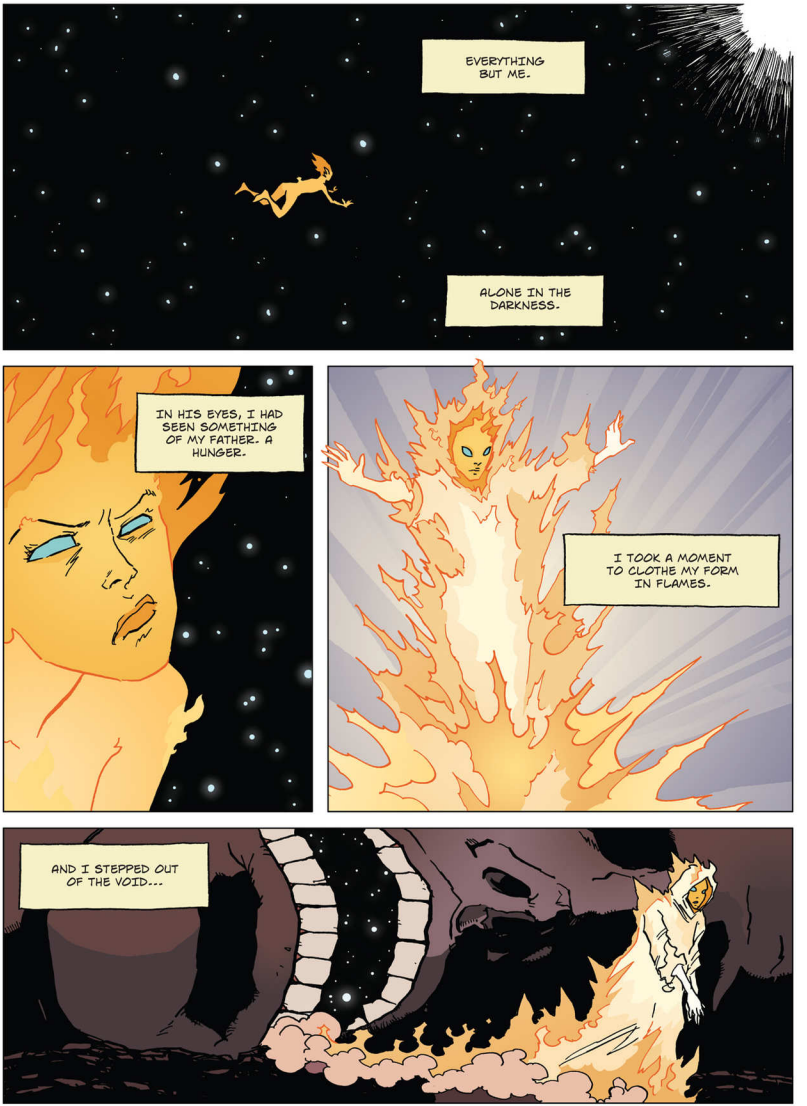
FINALLY, A STONE CHILD CAME THROUGH. STILLBORN, I ASSUMED.
IT SEEMED TO MARK AN END—NO MORE CHILDREN FOLLOWED IT.

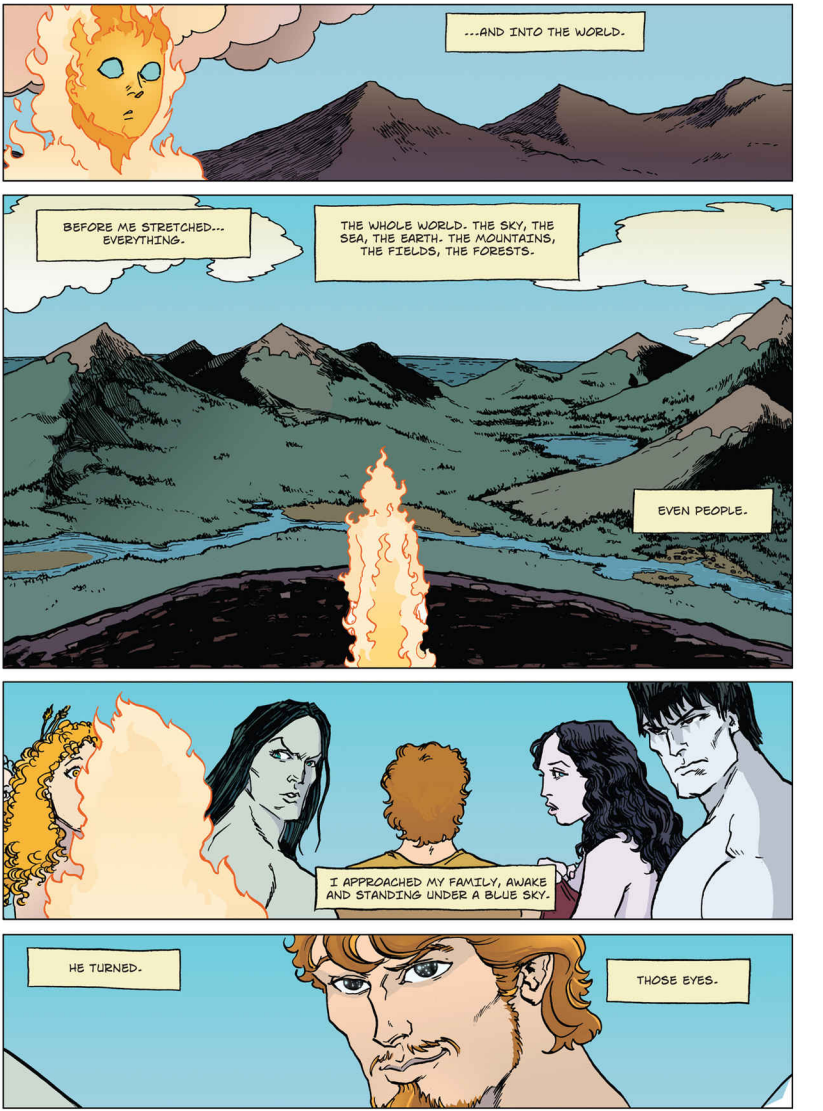

MORE TIME PASSED.
OCCASIONALLY THE SKY WOULD OPEN AND OBJECTS FROM THE WORLD OUTSIDE WOULD FALL THROUGH.
I WOULD MUSE UPON THESE OBJECTS, FABRICATE STORIES ABOUT THEM TO TELL MY SLUMBERING BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

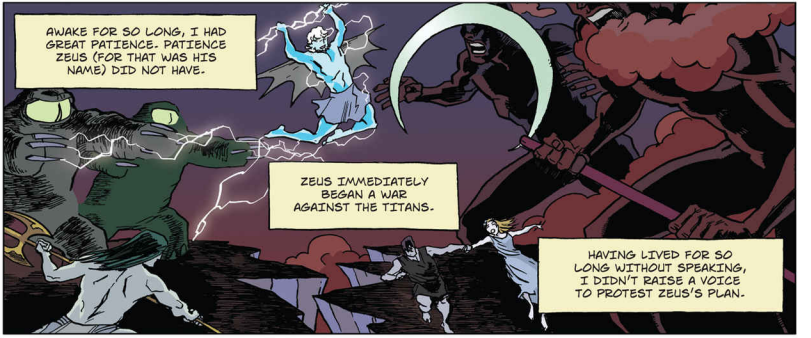
SOMETIMES, AS THEY SLEPT, MY SIBLINGS WOULD TAKE ON OTHER FORMS.
SLEEPING THEIR WHOLE LIVES, I WONDERED WHAT SHAPES FILLED THEIR DREAMS?

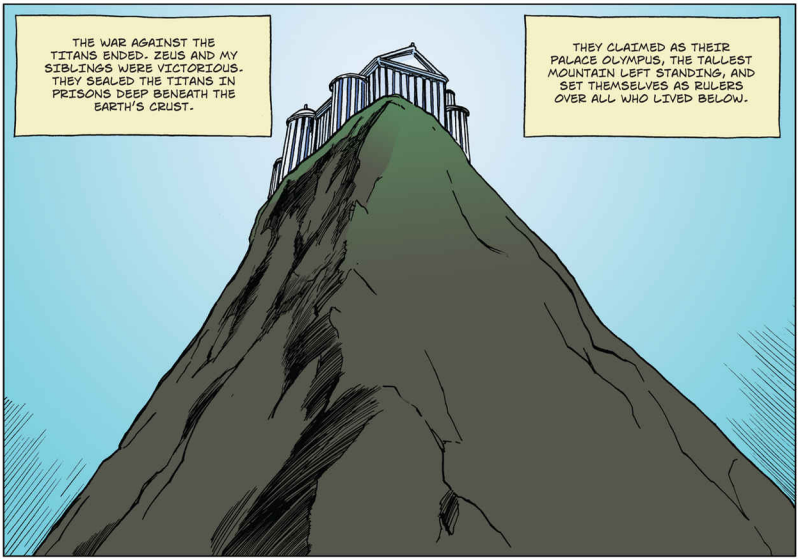

MORE TIME PASSED, THE MOST YET.
THE SKY OPENED.
A FIGURE FELL THROUGH.
BUT NOT A CHILD THIS TIME.
OUR EYES LOCKED.

HE PULLED SOMETHING FROM HIS HEM AND THREW IT.
THE STARRY VOID SHUDDERED AND CONVULSED.
AND EVERYTHING WAS CAST OUT.

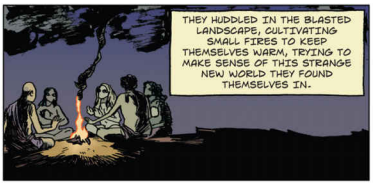

EVERYTHING BUT ME.
ALONE IN THE DARKNESS.
IN HIS EYES, I HAD SEEN SOMETHING OF MY FATHER. A HUNGER.
I TOOK A MOMENT TO CLOTHE MY FORM IN FLAMES.
AND I STEPPED OUT OF THE VOID...

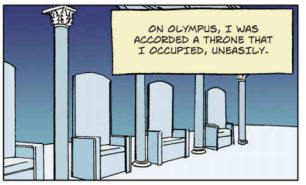

...AND INTO THE WORLD.
BEFORE ME STRETCHED... EVERYTHING.
THE WHOLE WORLD. THE SKY, THE SEA, THE EARTH. THE MOUNTAINS, THE FIELDS, THE FORESTS.
EVEN PEOPLE.
I APPROACHED MY FAMILY, AWAKE AND STANDING UNDER A BLUE SKY.
HE TURNED.
THOSE EYES.

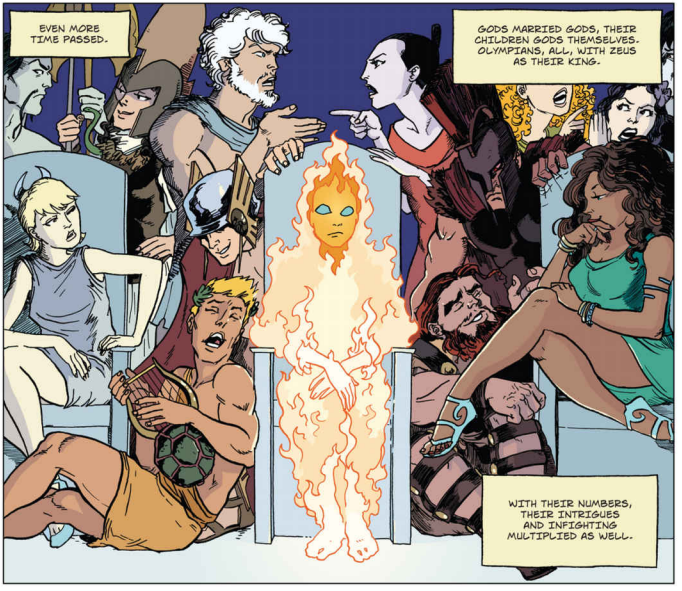

AWAKE FOR SO LONG, I HAD GREAT PATIENCE. PATIENCE ZEUS (FOR THAT WAS HIS NAME) DID NOT HAVE.
ZEUS IMMEDIATELY BEGAN A WAR AGAINST THE TITANS.
HAVING LIVED FOR SO LONG WITHOUT SPEAKING, I DIDN'T RAISE A VOICE TO PROTEST ZEUS'S PLAN.


THE WAR AGAINST THE TITANS ENDED. ZEUS AND MY SIBLINGS WERE VICTORIOUS. THEY SEALED THE TITANS IN PRISONS DEEP BENEATH THE EARTH'S CRUST.
THEY CLAIMED AS THEIR PALACE OLYMPUS, THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN LEFT STANDING, AND SET THEMSELVES AS RULERS OVER ALL WHO LIVED BELOW.

AND MY THOUGHTS TURNED TO THOSE CREATURES, ESPECIALLY THE HUMANS.
THEY HAD SUFFERED MUCH IN THIS CONFLAGRATION BETWEEN GODS.

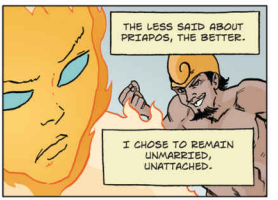

THEY HUDDLED IN THE BLASTED LANDSCAPE, CULTIVATING SMALL FIRES TO KEEP THEMSELVES WARM, TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF THIS STRANGE NEW WORLD THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN.


ON OLYMPUS, I WAS ACCORDED A THRONE THAT I OCCUPIED, UNEASILY.

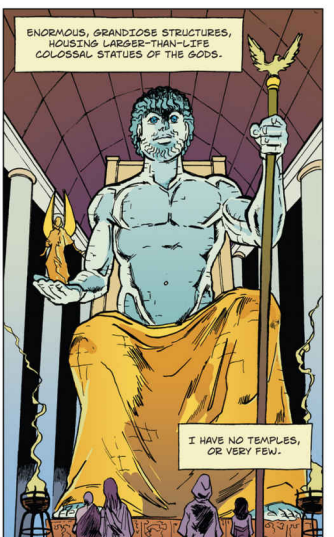

EVEN MORE TIME PASSED.
GODS MARRIED GODS, THEIR CHILDREN GODS THEMSELVES. OLYMPIANS, ALL, WITH ZEUS AS THEIR KING.
WITH THEIR NUMBERS, THEIR INTRIGUES AND INFIGHTING MULTIPLIED AS WELL.

STORIES UNFOLD ALL AROUND ME, AND I CHOOSE NOT TO BE A PART OF THEM.

OTHER GODS PURSUED MY HAND, TO BE SURE. POSEIDON, APOLLO...


THE LESS SAID ABOUT PRIAPOS, THE BETTER.
I CHOSE TO REMAIN UNMARRIED, UNATTACHED.

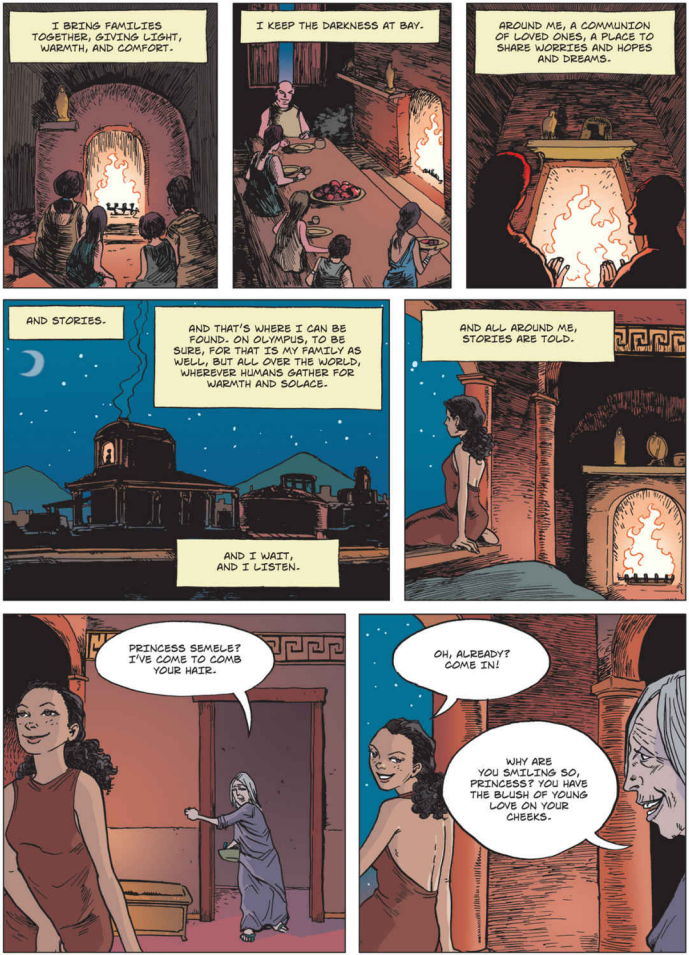
AS THE GODS MULTIPLIED, SO, TOO, DID THE HUMANS.
THE OTHER OLYMPIANS ENCOURAGED THE HUMANS TO BUILD MAJESTIC TEMPLES IN THEIR HONOR.


ENORMOUS, GRANDIOSE STRUCTURES, HOUSING LARGER-THAN-LIFE COLOSSAL STATUES OF THE GODS.
I HAVE NO TEMPLES, OR VERY FEW.

I SATISFIED MYSELF WITH HUMBLER RECOGNITIONS.

IN EVERY HOUSE, IN EVERY HOME I DWELL.

THE FIRST PART OF EVERY MEAL, EVERY SACRIFICE, EVERY PRAYER IS OFFERED UP TO ME.


I BRING FAMILIES TOGETHER, GIVING LIGHT, WARMTH, AND COMFORT.
I KEEP THE DARKNESS AT BAY.
AROUND ME, A COMMUNION OF LOVED ONES, A PLACE TO SHARE WORRIES AND HOPES AND DREAMS.
AND STORIES.
AND THAT'S WHERE I CAN BE FOUND. ON OLYMPUS, TO BE SURE, FOR THAT IS MY FAMILY AS WELL, BUT ALL OVER THE WORLD, WHEREVER HUMANS GATHER FOR WARMTH AND SOLACE.
AND I WAIT, AND I LISTEN.
AND ALL AROUND ME, STORIES ARE TOLD.
PRINCESS SEMELE? I'VE COME TO COMB YOUR HAIR.
OH, ALREADY? COME IN!
WHY ARE YOU SMILING SO, PRINCESS? YOU HAVE THE BLUSH OF YOUNG LOVE ON YOUR CHEEKS.

I DO? YES. I SUPPOSE I DO. I DO!
WHO IS IT? ONE OF THE COURTIERS?

NO, IT'S—NO, I SHOULDN'T TELL YOU, I—

TELL ME.

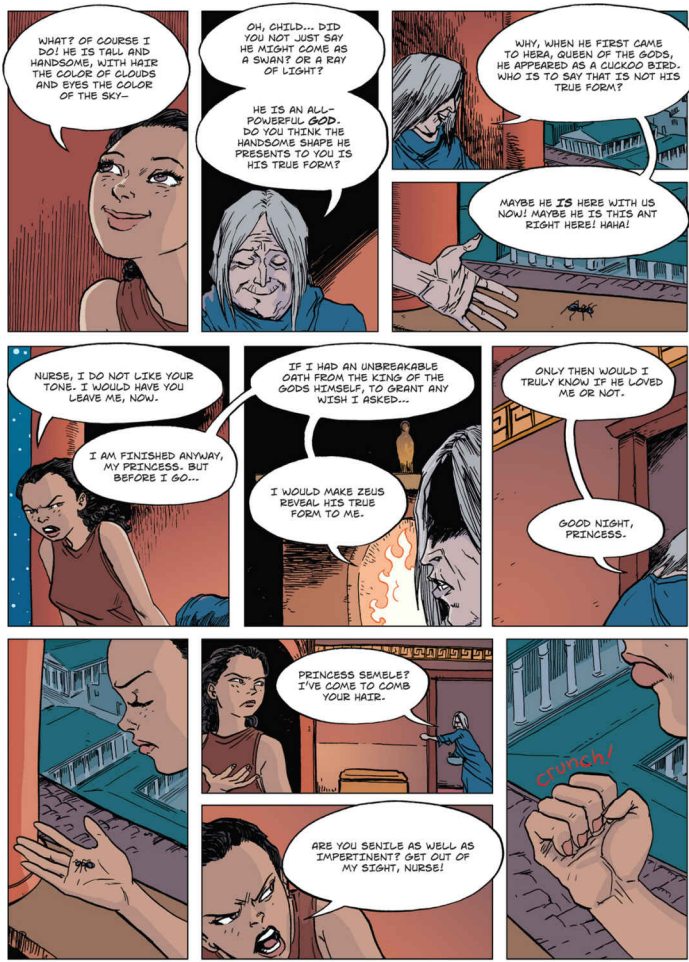
MY LOVER IS ZEUS, KING OF THE GODS HIMSELF.

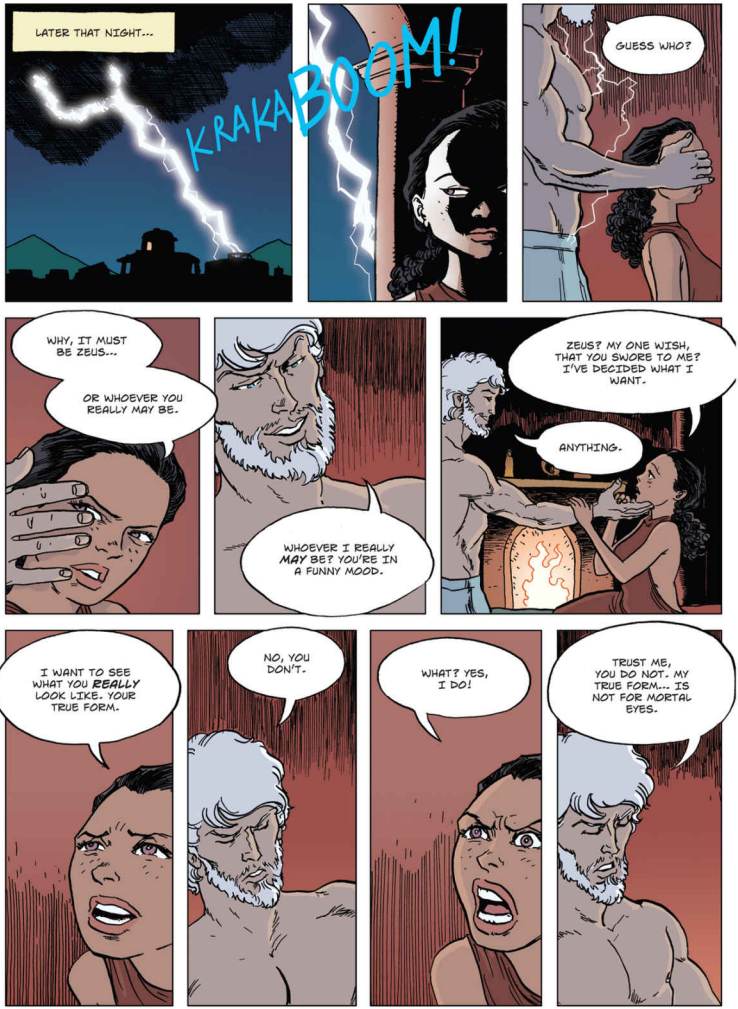
OW, YOU PULLED MY HAIR!
HAHA. SURELY YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN OR DECEIVED. SOME FOOL PRETENDING TO BE ZEUS, TO WIN THE HEART OF A PRETTY G—
NO MISTAKE, FOR I HAVE SEEN HIM TAKE NEW FORM WITH MY OWN EYES! HE'S COME TO ME AS A SERPENT, AS A BEETLE, AS A BIRD!

NO, HE IS THE GOD ZEUS, AND HE LOVES ME TRUE. I KNOW BECAUSE HE HAS PROMISED ME ONE BOON, ONE WISH...
ANYTHING I WANT. HE HAS SWORN THIS ON THE RIVER STYX ITSELF!

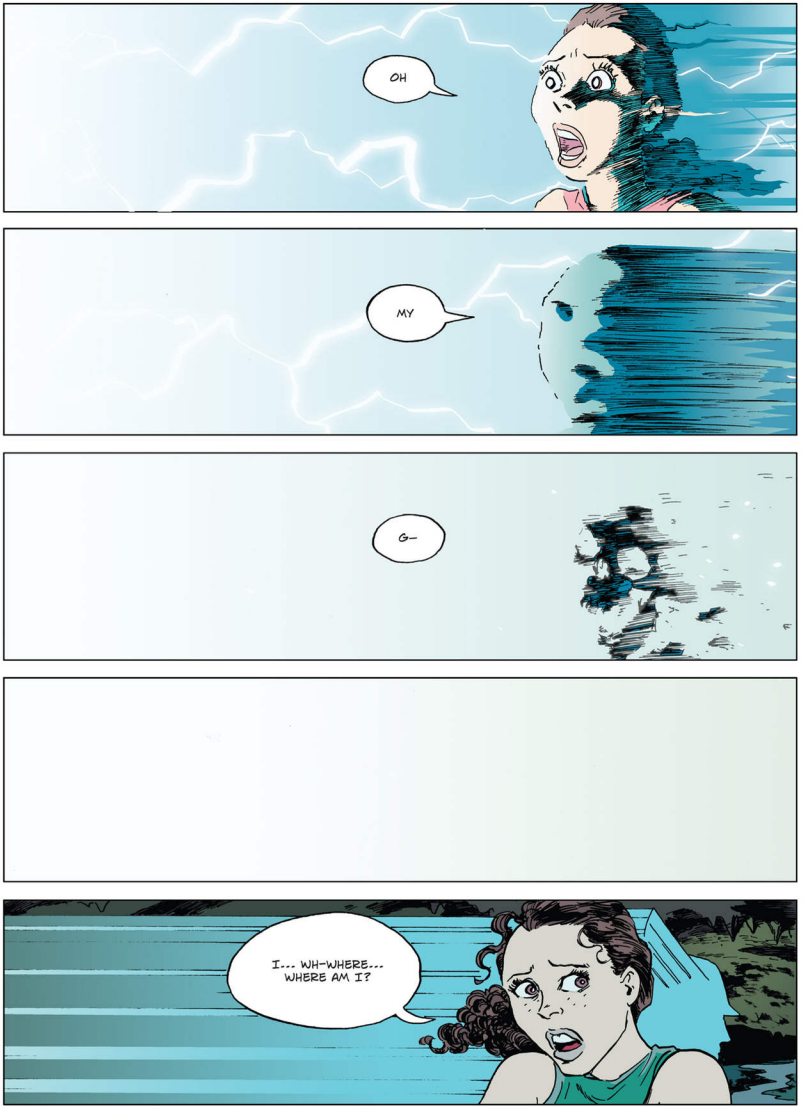
AND THAT OATH IS UNBREAKABLE, EVEN TO THE GODS!
I WONDER HOW HE'LL COME TO ME TONIGHT. MAYBE AS A SWAN, OR A SHOWER OF GOLD...
HEHEHE.

WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING, NURSE? I DEMAND AN ANSWER!
IT'S JUST FUNNY— WELL, IT'S SAD, REALLY, I THINK, THAT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT ZEUS REALLY LOOKS LIKE.


WHAT? OF COURSE I DO! HE IS TALL AND HANDSOME, WITH HAIR THE COLOR OF CLOUDS AND EYES THE COLOR OF THE SKY—
OH, CHILD... DID YOU NOT JUST SAY HE MIGHT COME AS A SWAN? OR A RAY OF LIGHT?
HE IS AN ALL-POWERFUL GOD. DO YOU THINK THE HANDSOME SHAPE HE PRESENTS TO YOU IS HIS TRUE FORM?
WHY, WHEN HE FIRST CAME TO HERA, QUEEN OF THE GODS, HE APPEARED AS A CUCKOO BIRD. WHO IS TO SAY THAT IS NOT HIS TRUE FORM?
MAYBE HE IS HERE WITH US NOW! MAYBE HE IS THIS ANT RIGHT HERE! HAHA!
NURSE, I DO NOT LIKE YOUR TONE. I WOULD HAVE YOU LEAVE ME, NOW.
I AM FINISHED ANYWAY, MY PRINCESS. BUT BEFORE I GO...
IF I HAD AN UNBREAKABLE OATH FROM THE KING OF THE GODS HIMSELF, TO GRANT ANY WISH I ASKED...
I WOULD MAKE ZEUS REVEAL HIS TRUE FORM TO ME.
ONLY THEN WOULD I TRULY KNOW IF HE LOVED ME OR NOT.
GOOD NIGHT, PRINCESS.
PRINCESS SEMELE? I'VE COME TO COMB YOUR HAIR.
ARE YOU SENILE AS WELL AS IMPERTINENT? GET OUT OF MY SIGHT, NURSE!
crunch!


LATER THAT NIGHT...
KRAKABOOM!
GUESS WHO?
WHY, IT MUST BE ZEUS...
OR WHOEVER YOU REALLY MAY BE.
WHOEVER I REALLY MAY BE? YOU'RE IN A FUNNY MOOD.
ZEUS? MY ONE WISH, THAT YOU SWORE TO ME? I'VE DECIDED WHAT I WANT.
ANYTHING.
I WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU REALLY LOOK LIKE. YOUR TRUE FORM.
NO, YOU DON'T.
WHAT? YES, I DO!
TRUST ME, YOU DO NOT. MY TRUE FORM... IS NOT FOR MORTAL EYES.

NOT FOR M—HOW CAN I TRUST YOU IF I CAN NEVER SEE WHAT YOU TRULY LOOK LIKE?! YOUR EVERY APPEARANCE TO ME IS A LIE!
THAT'S N—
YOU SWORE TO GRANT ME ONE WISH—ONE WISH ON THE RIVER STYX! AN UNBREAKABLE OATH! WELL, NOW I WILL USE THAT WISH!
ZEUS, I WISH FOR YOU TO REVEAL TO ME YOUR TRUE FORM!
SIIIGH... AS YOU WISH.

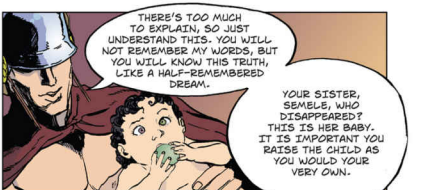

OH
MY
G—
I... WH-WHERE... WHERE AM I?

THE RIVER STYX.
THE SAME RIVER ZEUS SWORE AN UNBREAKABLE OATH TO YOU UPON.
HERE YOU WILL WAIT FOR CHARON THE BOATMAN TO TAKE YOU TO THE OTHER SIDE, TO THE UNDERWORLD...
THEN I?
WE GODS DON'T TAKE ON THESE STUNNING SHAPES JUST TO SEDUCE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG MORTALS...
WELL, MAYBE MY DAD DOES.
WE ARE BLAZING ENERGY, AND MORTALS JUST CAN'T ENDURE IT.
LOOK, I HAVE A ZILLION PLACES TO BE AT ONCE. I GOTTA SPLIT.
SORRY!
B-BUT I NEVER TOLD ZEUS...
...I'M PREGNANT.
YOU OKAY, POP?
THESE MORTALS... THEIR LIVES FLICKER SO BRIEFLY ALREADY.
ALL THAT SHE WAS... NOW JUST ASH...

WHEREEVER DID SHE GET THAT IDEA IN HER HEAD, DO YOU THINK, TO SEE YOU AS YOU REALLY ARE?
I CAN GUESS...
WAIT, LOOK, THERE. DO YOU SEE?
WHAT IS IT?
NOTHING YET.
IT'S ALL THAT REMAINS AFTER ALL THAT IS MORTAL WAS BURNED AWAY. A DIVINE SPARK...
BUT PERHAPS ONE DAY...
ZEUS FOLDED THAT DIVINE SPARK UNDER THE SKIN OF HIS OWN THIGH.
THERE THAT SPARK TOOK AND GREW TO TERM.
UNTIL IT WAS BORN, A CHILD FROM THE THIGH OF THE KING OF THE GODS.
THIS STRANGE BIRTH WAS ATTENDED ONLY BY HERMES, WHO WHISKED THE INFANT AWAY AT THE INSTANT OF DELIVERY.

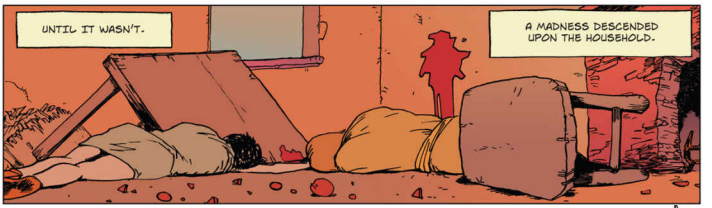
WELL, THAT WAS EASILY THE WEIRDEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN, LITTLE ONE, AND BELIEVE YOU ME—I'VE SEEN SOME *STUFF*.
SHH, DON'T CRY. HERE, HAVE A GRAPE.

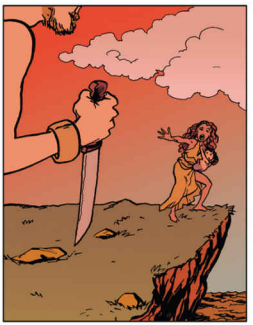
L-LORD HERMES!
GREETINGS, PRINCESS INO.


THERE'S TOO MUCH TO EXPLAIN, SO JUST UNDERSTAND THIS. YOU WILL NOT REMEMBER MY WORDS, BUT YOU WILL KNOW THIS TRUTH, LIKE A HALF-REMEMBERED DREAM.
YOUR SISTER, SEMELE, WHO DISAPPEARED? THIS IS HER BABY. IT IS IMPORTANT YOU RAISE THE CHILD AS YOU WOULD YOUR VERY OWN.

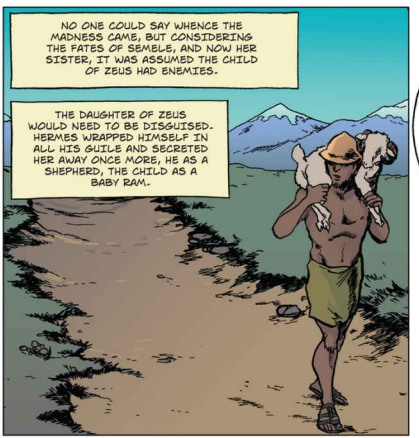
...
SHE HAS HER MOTHER'S EYES.

IN THE KINGDOM OF THEBES, DIONYSOS LIVED THE FIRST YEARS OF HER LIFE AS THE DAUGHTER OF INO.
HER TIME WITH INO'S FAMILY WAS A HAPPY TIME.

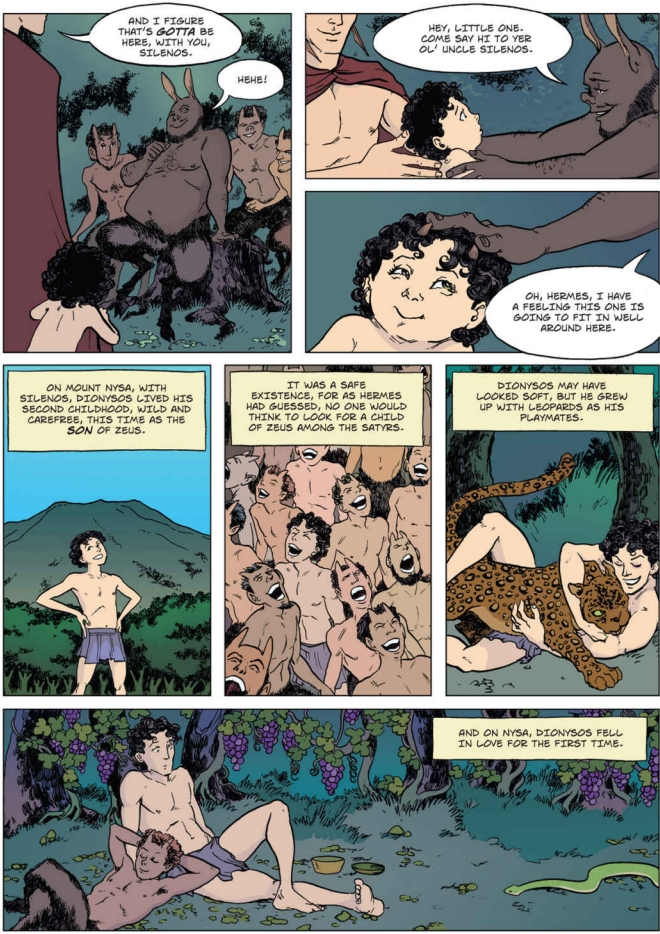

UNTIL IT WASN'T.
A MADNESS DESCENDED UPON THE HOUSEHOLD.

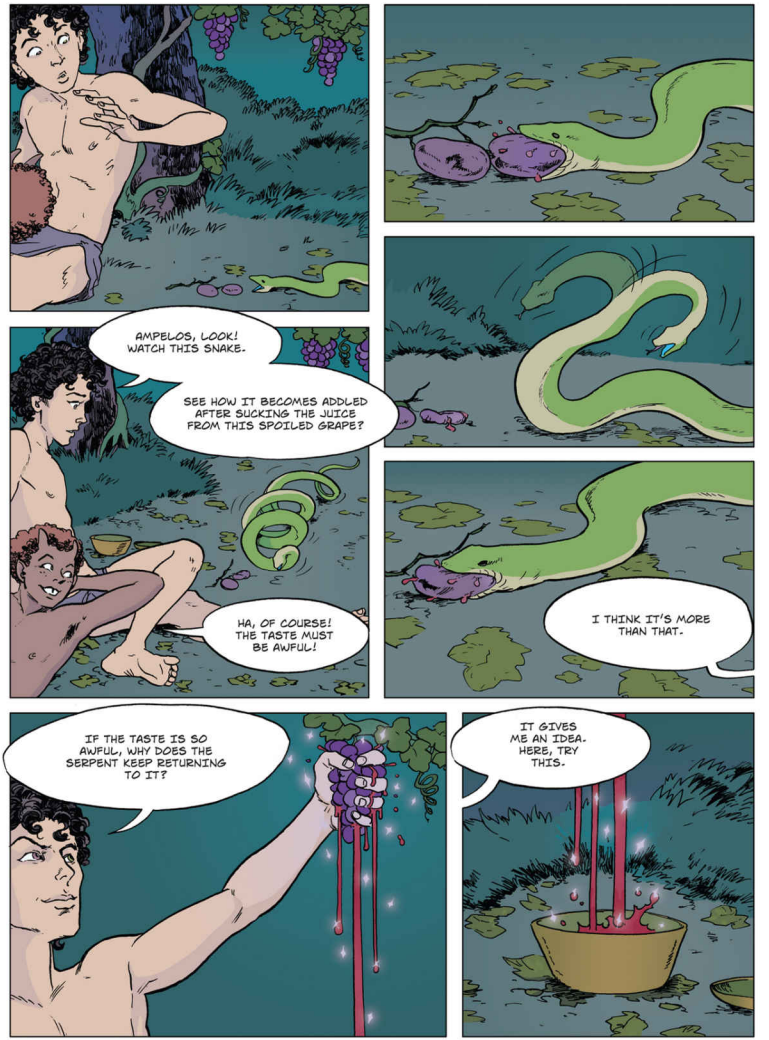


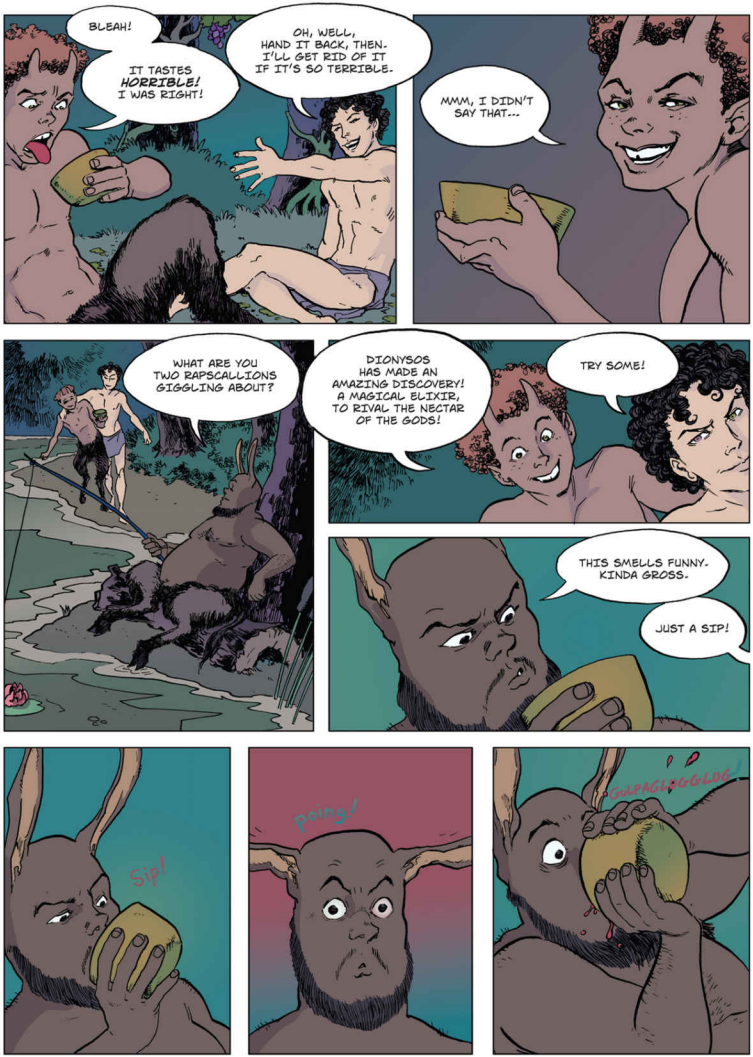
PHEW!
GOT HERE IN THE NICK OF TIME!


NO ONE COULD SAY WHENCE THE MADNESS CAME, BUT CONSIDERING THE FATES OF SEMELE, AND NOW HER SISTER, IT WAS ASSUMED THE CHILD OF ZEUS HAD ENEMIES.
THE DAUGHTER OF ZEUS WOULD NEED TO BE DISGUISED. HERMES WRAPPED HIMSELF IN ALL HIS GUILE AND SECRETED HER AWAY ONCE MORE, HE AS A SHEPHERD, THE CHILD AS A BABY RAM.

...SO I TOOK THE RAM TO THE LAST POSSIBLE PLACE THAT ANYONE IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD EVER THINK OF LOOKING FOR A CHILD.


AND I FIGURE THAT'S GOTTA BE HERE, WITH YOU, SILENOS.
HEHE!
HEY, LITTLE ONE. COME SAY HI TO YER OL' UNCLE SILENOS.
OH, HERMES, I HAVE A FEELING THIS ONE IS GOING TO FIT IN WELL AROUND HERE.
ON MOUNT NYSA, WITH SILENOS, DIONYSOS LIVED HIS SECOND CHILDHOOD, WILD AND CAREFREE, THIS TIME AS THE SON OF ZEUS.
IT WAS A SAFE EXISTENCE, FOR AS HERMES HAD GUESSED, NO ONE WOULD THINK TO LOOK FOR A CHILD OF ZEUS AMONG THE SATYRS.
DIONYSOS MAY HAVE LOOKED SOFT, BUT HE GREW UP WITH LEOPARDS AS HIS PLAYMATES.
AND ON NYSA, DIONYSOS FELL IN LOVE FOR THE FIRST TIME.


AMPELOS, LOOK! WATCH THIS SNAKE.
SEE HOW IT BECOMES ADDLED AFTER SUCKING THE JUICE FROM THIS SPOILED GRAPE?
HA, OF COURSE! THE TASTE MUST BE AWFUL!
I THINK IT'S MORE THAN THAT.
IF THE TASTE IS SO AWFUL, WHY DOES THE SERPENT KEEP RETURNING TO IT?
IT GIVES ME AN IDEA. HERE, TRY THIS.

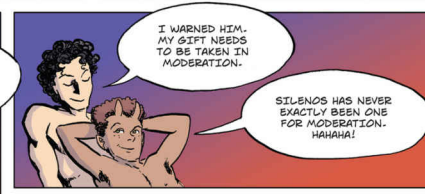

BLEAH!
IT TASTES HORRIBLE! I WAS RIGHT!
OH, WELL, HAND IT BACK, THEN. I'LL GET RID OF IT IF IT'S SO TERRIBLE.
MMM, I DIDN'T SAY THAT...
WHAT ARE YOU TWO RAPSCALLIONS GIGGLING ABOUT?
DIONYSOS HAS MADE AN AMAZING DISCOVERY! A MAGICAL ELIXIR, TO RIVAL THE NECTAR OF THE GODS!
TRY SOME!
THIS SMELLS FUNNY. KINDA GROSS.
JUST A SIP!
Sip!
Poing!
GLUGLUGLUGLUG

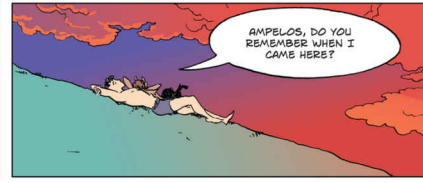
I THINK HE LIKES IT!
ohoowoohoo
A woohoowoohoowoohoowoohoo

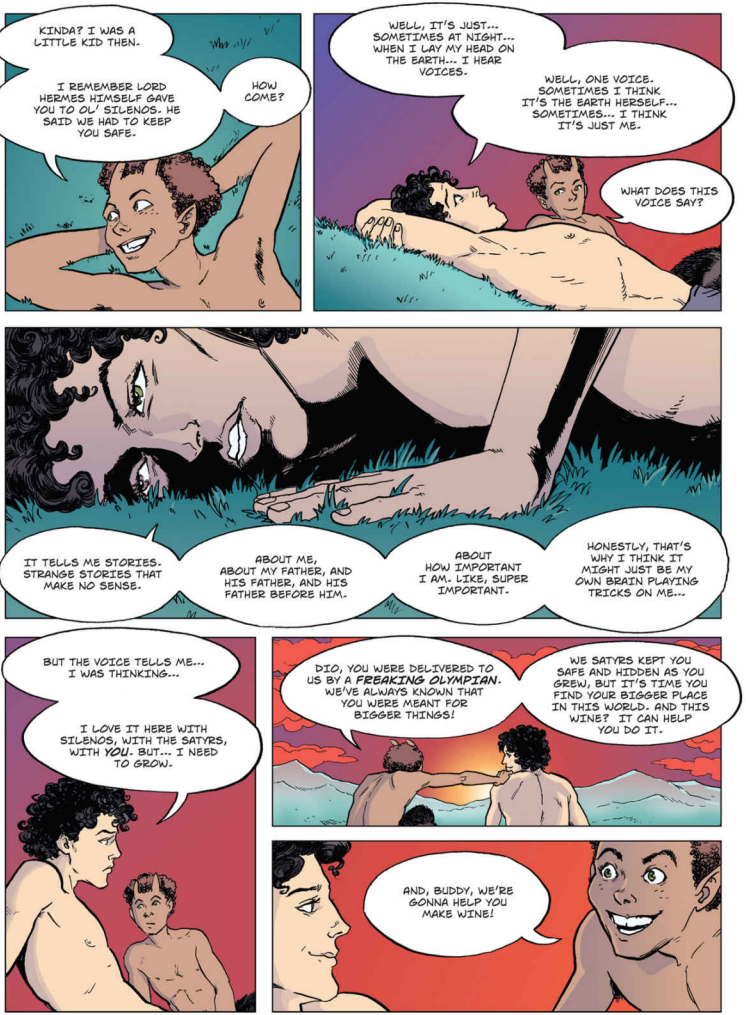
IN HIS DISCOVERY OF WINE, DIONYSOS CREATED SOMETHING WITH WHICH TO LIFT THE PAIN OF EXISTENCE, TO ALLEVIATE THE BOREDOM, TO HELP CELEBRATE THE ACT OF LIVING.

AND, IF ONE IS NOT CAREFUL, MAYBE A WISH FOR DEATH THE NEXT MORNING.

HOW'S SILENOS FEELING?
HE SAYS HIS HEAD FEELS LIKE ATHENA HERSELF IS TRYING TO BREAK OUT OF IT. SO, BETTER THAN HE WAS, I'D SAY.


I WARNED HIM. MY GIFT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN IN MODERATION.
SILENOS HAS NEVER EXACTLY BEEN ONE FOR MODERATION. HAHAHA!

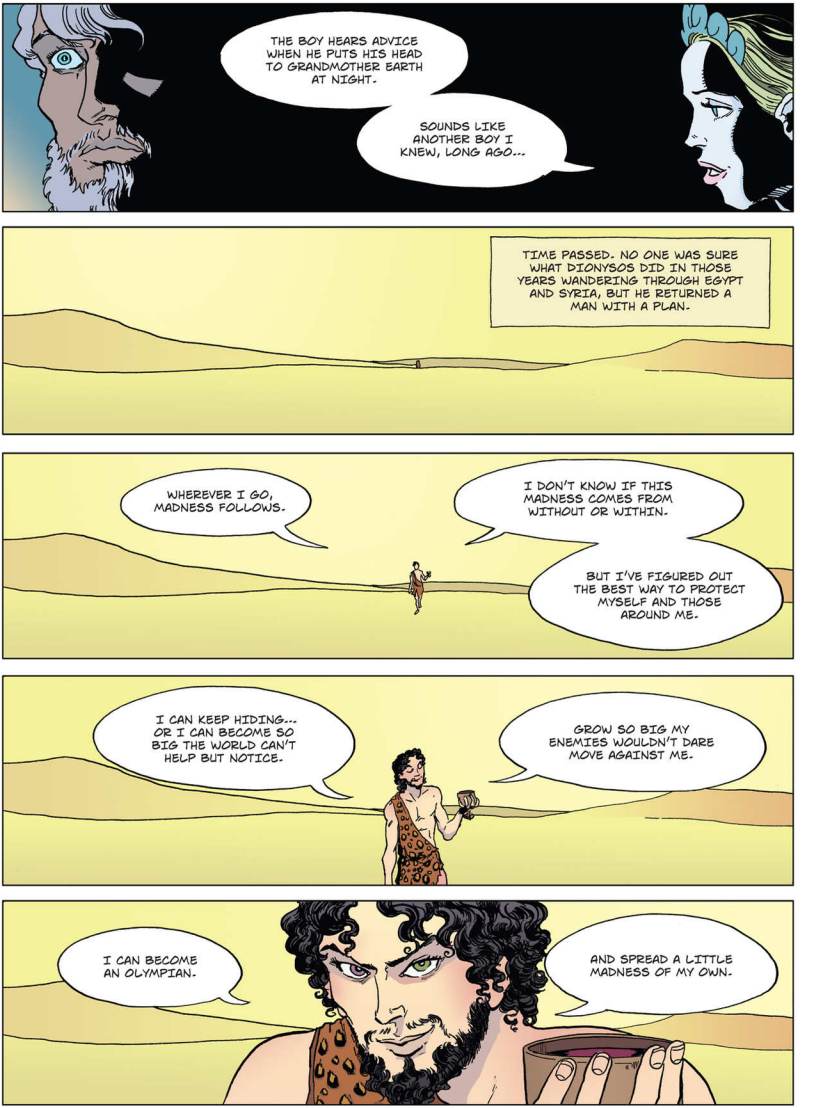

AMPELOS, DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN I CAME HERE?


KINDA? I WAS A LITTLE KID THEN.
I REMEMBER LORD HERMES HIMSELF GAVE YOU TO OL' SILENOS. HE SAID WE HAD TO KEEP YOU SAFE.
HOW COME?
WELL, IT'S JUST... SOMETIMES AT NIGHT... WHEN I LAY MY HEAD ON THE EARTH... I HEAR VOICES.
WELL, ONE VOICE. SOMETIMES I THINK IT'S THE EARTH HERSELF... SOMETIMES... I THINK IT'S JUST ME.
WHAT DOES THIS VOICE SAY?
IT TELLS ME STORIES. STRANGE STORIES THAT MAKE NO SENSE.
ABOUT ME, ABOUT MY FATHER, AND HIS FATHER, AND HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM.
ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT I AM. LIKE, SUPER IMPORTANT.
HONESTLY, THAT'S WHY I THINK IT MIGHT JUST BE MY OWN BRAIN PLAYING TRICKS ON ME...
BUT THE VOICE TELLS ME... I WAS THINKING...
I LOVE IT HERE WITH SILENOS, WITH THE SATYRS, WITH YOU. BUT... I NEED TO GROW.
DIO, YOU WERE DELIVERED TO US BY A FREAKING OLYMPIAN. WE'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT YOU WERE MEANT FOR BIGGER THINGS!
WE SATYRS KEPT YOU SAFE AND HIDDEN AS YOU GREW, BUT IT'S TIME YOU FIND YOUR BIGGER PLACE IN THIS WORLD. AND THIS WINE? IT CAN HELP YOU DO IT.
AND, BUDDY, WE'RE GONNA HELP YOU MAKE WINE!

THE SATYRS TURNED ALL THEIR ATTENTIONS TO THE MAKING OF WINE, GATHERING EVERY GRAPE THEY COULD FIND ON MOUNT NYSA.
THEY WERE DRIVEN, INSANELY SO, EVEN. BUT BEING SATYRS, STILL WILD...
...STILL CARELESS.
AMPELOS, COME ON! WE'VE SCOURED THIS VINE FOR GRAPES!
HOLD ON!

WE DON'T NEED EVERY GRAPE!
SAYS YOU!
I CAN... ALMOST...
OH, DIONYSOS...
...I'M SORRY.
IT WAS HAPPENING AGAIN.
PEOPLE WERE DYING AROUND DIONYSOS.
HEARTBROKEN, MAD WITH GRIEF, DIONYSOS WANDERED OUT INTO THE DESERT, TO FIND AN ANSWER TO THE UNKNOWABLE.

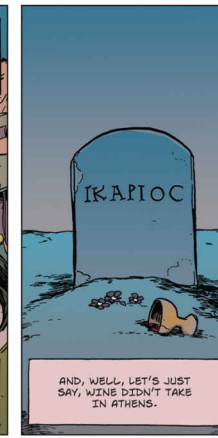
THANK YOU, HEBE.
DESPITE HIS FATHER'S CLUMSY ATTEMPTS TO HIDE IT FROM ME, DIONYSOS IS CLEARLY A CHILD OF ZEUS.
THE BOY SEEMS INTENT ON BEING NOTICED. HE MAY ONLY BE HALF-OLYMPIAN, BUT HE OBVIOUSLY HAS SOME LEVEL OF DIVINE POWER.
BUT I WONDER, PERHAPS THESE MADNESSES THAT OCCUR ABOUT HIM, THAT PLAGUE HIM?
IS IT RIDICULOUS TO SUPPOSE, PERHAPS, THAT HE HIMSELF IS UNWITTINGLY THE CAUSE? PERHAPS THIS SON OF ZEUS... IS A GOD OF MADNESS?
OKAY, THE THING WITH HIS MOTHER, YES, THAT WAS TOTALLY ME.
BUT THAT WAS ENOUGH. I WAS SATISFIED.
THE REST OF HIS MISFORTUNES, WELL...
I FEAR THIS DIONYSOS MAY HAVE TOO MUCH OF HIS FATHER IN HIM.


THE BOY HEARS ADVICE WHEN HE PUTS HIS HEAD TO GRANDMOTHER EARTH AT NIGHT.
SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER BOY I KNEW, LONG AGO...
TIME PASSED. NO ONE WAS SURE WHAT DIONYSOS DID IN THOSE YEARS WANDERING THROUGH EGYPT AND SYRIA, BUT HE RETURNED A MAN WITH A PLAN.
WHEREVER I GO, MADNESS FOLLOWS.
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS MADNESS COMES FROM WITHOUT OR WITHIN.
BUT I'VE FIGURED OUT THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT MYSELF AND THOSE AROUND ME.
I CAN KEEP HIDING... OR I CAN BECOME SO BIG THE WORLD CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE.
GROW SO BIG MY ENEMIES WOULDN'T DARE MOVE AGAINST ME.
I CAN BECOME AN OLYMPIAN.
AND SPREAD A LITTLE MADNESS OF MY OWN.

DIONYSOS WAS A MAN—ER, A GOD—WITH A MISSION.
AND WE SATYRS WERE THERE WITH HIM. WE HEADED OUT FROM MOUNT NYSA TO SPREAD THE WORD OF WINE.

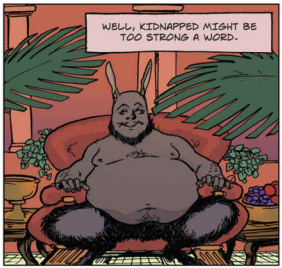
THINGS WENT ROCKY AT FIRST.
OUTSIDE OF ATHENS, DIO TAUGHT A MAN NAMED IKARIOS THE SECRET OF HOW TO MAKE WINE.

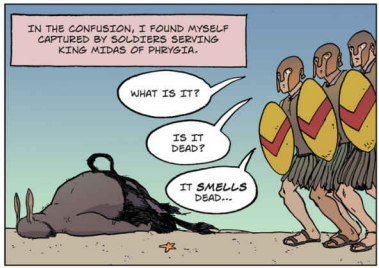
IKARIOS WAS TO TEACH OTHERS ABOUT WINE, AND HE SHOWED THE MAGICAL ELIXIR TO SOME SHEPHERDS.
THEY DRANK TOO MUCH AND THOUGHT THEY HAD BEEN POISONED.

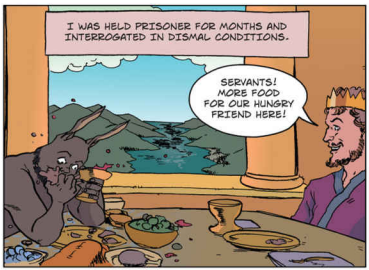

IKAPIOC
AND, WELL, LET'S JUST SAY, WINE DIDN'T TAKE IN ATHENS.

BUT THAT DIDN'T COMPARE TO OUR RECEPTION IN THRACE.

I AM LYCURGUS, KING OF THESE LANDS.
WE THRACIANS ARE STEADY AND RESOLUTE, LIKE THE OAK. SOBER AND SURE.
I'VE HEARD TELL OF YOUR "MAGICAL" DRINK THAT CAUSES MADNESS.
THERE IS NO PLACE IN THRACE FOR WINE, OR FOR THE GAGGLE OF UNRULY SATYRS WHO CARRY IT.
I HEAR YOU, LYSEY— CAN I CALL YOU LYSEY? LOVE YOUR MUSTACHE, BY THE WAY.
ANYWAY, LYSEY, HOW ABOUT YOU PROMISE JUST TO LET US THROUGH YOUR LANDS...
AND WE PROMISE NOT TO MAKE FUN OF YOUR MUSTACHE.
TOO MUCH.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
LYCURGUS AND HIS ARMY DROVE US INTO THE SEA.
AND IT'S AROUND THAT TIME THAT I GOT KIDNAPPED.

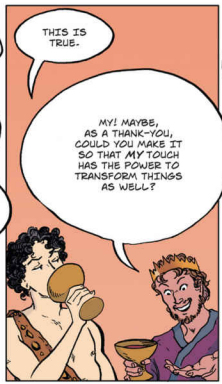

WELL, KIDNAPPED MIGHT BE TOO STRONG A WORD.


IN THE CONFUSION, I FOUND MYSELF CAPTURED BY SOLDIERS SERVING KING MIDAS OF PHRYGIA.
WHAT IS IT?
IS IT DEAD?
IT SMELLS DEAD...


I WAS HELD PRISONER FOR MONTHS AND INTERROGATED IN DISMAL CONDITIONS.
SERVANTS! MORE FOOD FOR OUR HUNGRY FRIEND HERE!

AFTER A LONG CAPTIVITY, DIONYSOS FOUND ME AND DEMANDED MY RELEASE.
AW, DO I HAVE TO GO?

I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR THE HOSPITALITY YOU SHOWED SILENOS.
HE WAS A DELIGHT! SUCH STORIES HE WOULD TELL!
HE TELLS ME YOU CAN TURN GRAPE JUICE INTO THIS WONDERFUL ELIXIR WITH A TOUCH!

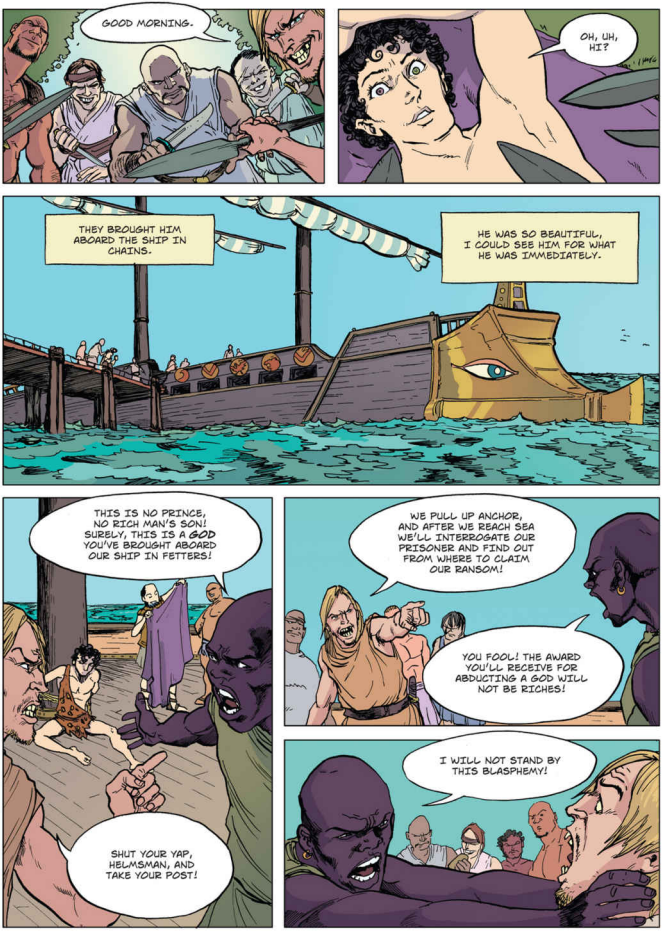

THIS IS TRUE.
MY! MAYBE, AS A THANK-YOU, COULD YOU MAKE IT SO THAT MY TOUCH HAS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM THINGS AS WELL?

HMM, WELL, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR TOUCH TO TURN THINGS INTO?
REALLY? WOW! WHAT WOULD I WANT TO CREATE WITH MY TOUCH? WAIT, I KNOW! I'D WANT MY TOUCH TO TURN EVERYTHING INTO—

GOLD!
HAHAHA! SUCH A GREAT IDEA I HAD! I'LL BE THE RICHEST KING IN THE WORLD!
TOO BAD ABOUT MY SERVANTS... THOUGH THEY DO MAKE FOR NICE STATUES.
SOLID-GOLD VASE?
DON'T MIND IF I DO!
HAHA! BOY, ALL THIS GOLD MAKING SURE HAS GIVEN ME AN APPETITE!
OW!
WHAT THE...
OW!!
HMMM...
BOY, I REALLY AM HUNGRY.
HUH.
I'VE MADE A HUGE MISTAKE.

HA, ZEUS, COME OVER. WE WERE JUST DISCUSSING THIS WAYWARD SON OF YOURS.
SON?
THIS HALF-MORTAL. DIONYSOS.
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THIS ONE, ZEUS. CONFERRING DIVINE GIFTS UPON IDIOT KINGS, WAGING WARS ON OTHERS...
THAT DIDN'T GO SO WELL FOR HIM. THE BOY AND HIS... ARMY WERE LITERALLY DRIVEN INTO MY REALM.
HE WAS? IS HE ALL RIGHT?
YOU JEST, POSEIDON. BUT I WORRY ABOUT DIONYSOS. THE THINGS HE DOES... I WONDER, IS THERE A METHOD TO HIS MADNESS?
WORRY NOT, FATHER. THE BOY IS FINE. DIONYSOS IS JUST DISCOVERING HIMSELF, TESTING HIMSELF.
DARE I SAY, FORGING HIMSELF?
WHEN HE WAS DRIVEN TO THE SEA, DIONYSOS TOOK REFUGE WITH THETIS, SHE WHO SHELTERED ME WHEN I WAS CAST FROM OLYMPUS AS A BABE.
YOU TWO REMEMBER THETIS, DON'T YOU, FATHER, UNCLE?
THERE TO BIDE HIS TIME. RECOVER. AND AWAIT THE PERFECT TIME TO STRIKE BACK.
AND NOT A MOMENT SOONER.
AFTER ALL, A BLADE PULLED TOO SOON FROM THE FORGE WILL SURELY BREAK.

THEBES
HERE IS THE PRISONER, KING PENTHEUS.
WE BELIEVE HE IS ASSOCIATED WITH... THE TROUBLEMAKER.
SPEAK, KNAVE! IDENTIFY YOURSELF!
GREETINGS, O KING, MY NAME IS ACOETES.
I'M FROM A HUMBLE FAMILY, BUT UNTIL RECENTLY I HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO FIND WORK AS A MARINER-FOR-HIRE.
HMM, PIRATE, YOU MEAN.
I'VE BEEN HEARING THINGS, DISTURBING THINGS, ABOUT THIS MAN WITH WHOM YOU TRAVEL.
TELL ME... ABOUT DIONYSOS.
I'LL TELL YOU, O KING...
BUT DIONYSOS IS NO MERE MAN...
MY COMPANIONS FOUND HIM DOZING ON A RIVERBANK, IN A KIND OF STUPOR.
THEY FIGURED HIM SOME SORT OF FOREIGN-BORN PRINCE OR SOMETHING, SOMEONE WHO MIGHT FETCH A RICH RANSOM.
HUH?


GOOD MORNING.
OH, UH, HI?
THEY BROUGHT HIM ABOARD THE SHIP IN CHAINS.
HE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL, I COULD SEE HIM FOR WHAT HE WAS IMMEDIATELY.
THIS IS NO PRINCE, NO RICH MAN'S SON! SURELY, THIS IS A GOD YOU'VE BROUGHT ABOARD OUR SHIP IN FETTERS!
SHUT YOUR YAP, HELMSMAN, AND TAKE YOUR POST!
WE PULL UP ANCHOR, AND AFTER WE REACH SEA WE'LL INTERROGATE OUR PRISONER AND FIND OUT FROM WHERE TO CLAIM OUR RANSOM!
YOU FOOL! THE AWARD YOU'LL RECEIVE FOR ABDUCTING A GOD WILL NOT BE RICHES!
I WILL NOT STAND BY THIS BLASPHEMY!

MY MUTINY WAS QUICKLY SUPPRESSED.
AUGHN!
ROWERS, TO POSITION! HOIST THE SAILS!
I WANT OFF THIS COAST BEFORE ANYONE NOTICES THIS PRETTY PRINCE GONE!
AND ONCE WE'RE TO SEA WE'LL THROW THIS TRAITOROUS HELMSMAN TO THE SHARKS!
UH, GUYS, CAN YOU KEEP IT DOWN?
MY HEAD IS POUNDING...
OH, HE'S DECIDED TO JOIN US, OUR PRETTY FOREIGN GUEST!
SO WHERE DO YOU CALL HOME, MY PRETTY LITTLE CAPTIVE? A MANSION OR CASTLE, NO DOUBT.
SOME OF MY MEN, THEY THOUGHT YOU WERE A WOMAN AT FIRST GLANCE, YOU'RE SO PRETTY.
AND THIS IDIOT EVEN THOUGHT YOU WERE A GOD.
THAT IDIOT?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. THIS IDIOT HERE.
OH.
WELL, HE'S RIGHT.

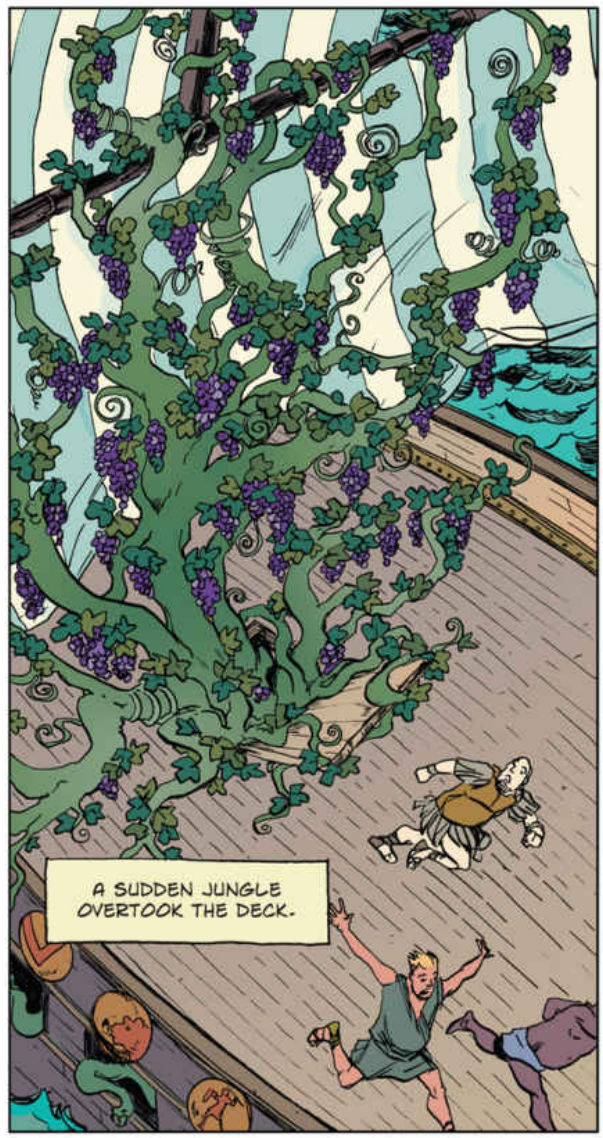
I COULD FEEL IT, EVEN FROM MY SPOT, LYING ON THE DECK.
THE SHIP STOPPED DEAD IN THE WATER. AT FULL SAILS.

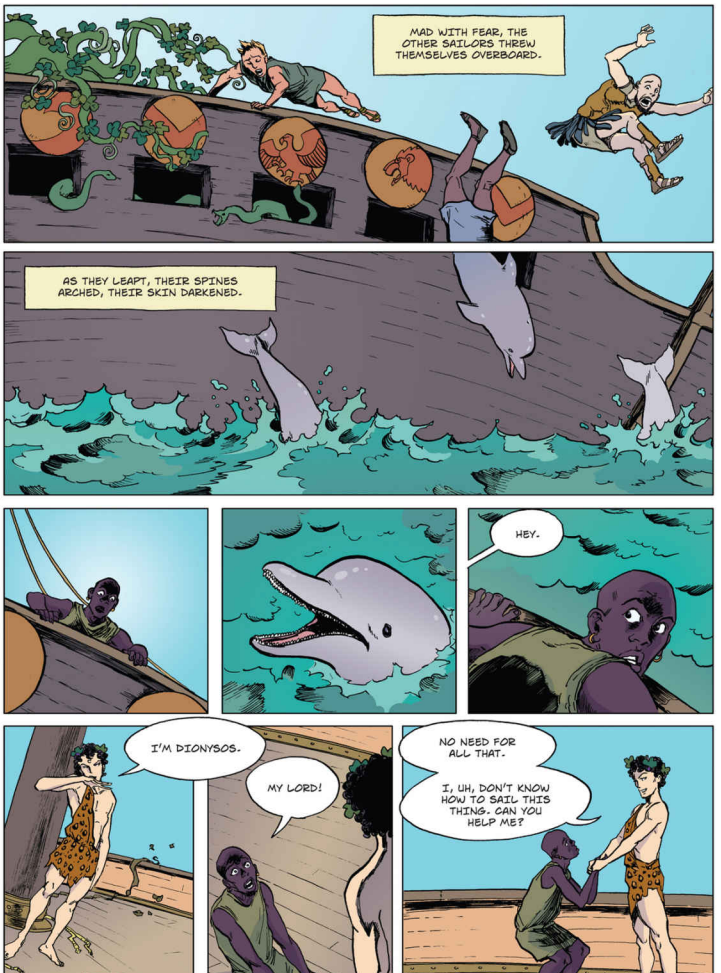
WHAT HAPPENED? WHY DID WE STOP?

BELOW, ON THE OAR DECKS, I HEARD SCREAMS.

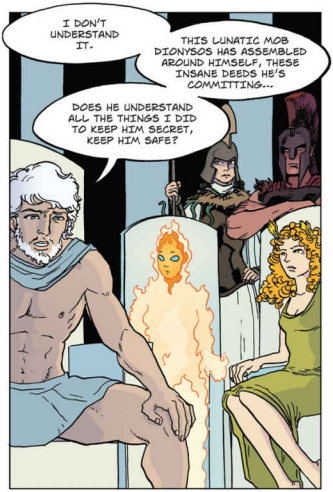
BY THE GODS...
NOT THE GODS.
JUST ME.

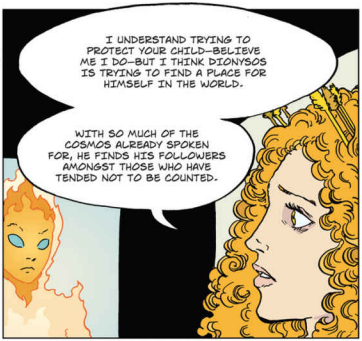
AAAARRRRGH!


A SUDDEN JUNGLE OVERTOOK THE DECK.


MAD WITH FEAR, THE OTHER SAILORS THREW THEMSELVES OVERBOARD.
AS THEY LEAPT, THEIR SPINES ARCHED, THEIR SKIN DARKENED.
HEY.
I'M DIONYSOS.
MY LORD!
NO NEED FOR ALL THAT.
I, UH, DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAIL THIS THING. CAN YOU HELP ME?

AND THAT IS HOW I BECAME BLESSED TO ENTER THE SERVICE OF DIONYSOS.
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH!
THIS DIONYSOS, THIS TROUBLE HE'S CAUSING, STIRRING UP THE RABBLE--HIS KIND IS NOT WELCOME IN THEBES.
TAKE THIS ZEALOT AWAY. TORTURE HIM!
YOUR GOD CAN'T HELP YOU NOW.
SIRE, IN THE CITY...
THE WOMEN...
THE WOMEN ARE UPRISING...


I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.
THIS LUNATIC MOB DIONYSOS HAS ASSEMBLED AROUND HIMSELF, THESE INSANE DEEDS HE'S COMMITTING...
DOES HE UNDERSTAND ALL THE THINGS I DID TO KEEP HIM SECRET, KEEP HIM SAFE?

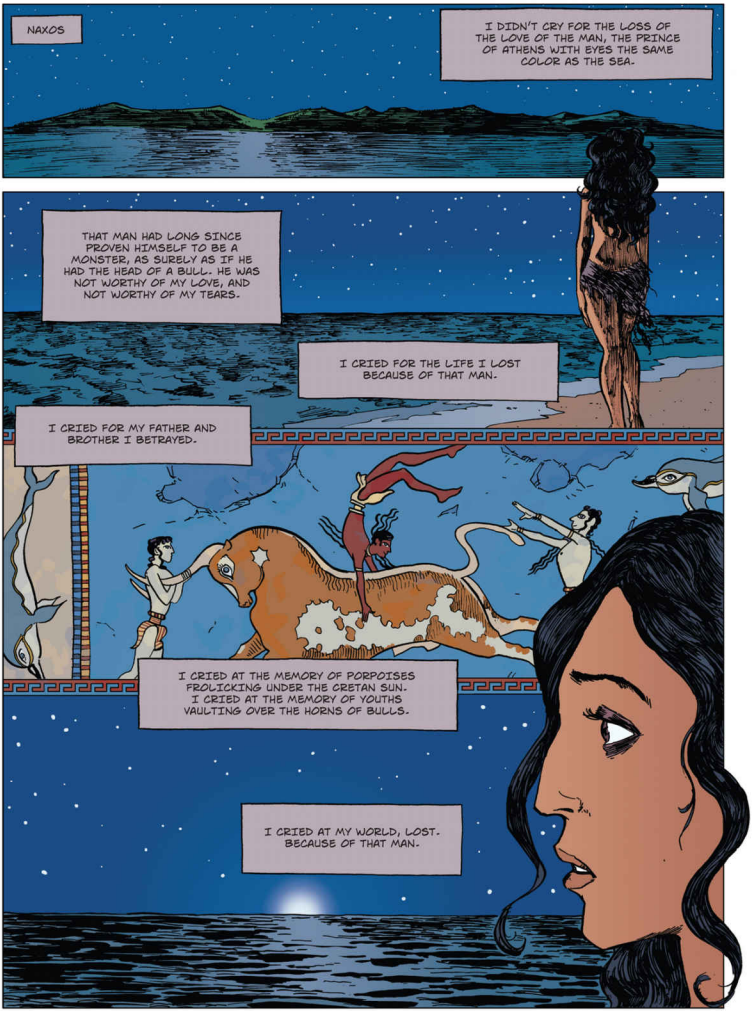

I UNDERSTAND TRYING TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD—BELIEVE ME I DO—BUT I THINK DIONYSOS IS TRYING TO FIND A PLACE FOR HIMSELF IN THE WORLD.
WITH SO MUCH OF THE COSMOS ALREADY SPOKEN FOR, HE FINDS HIS FOLLOWERS AMONGST THOSE WHO HAVE TENDED NOT TO BE COUNTED.

HMM.

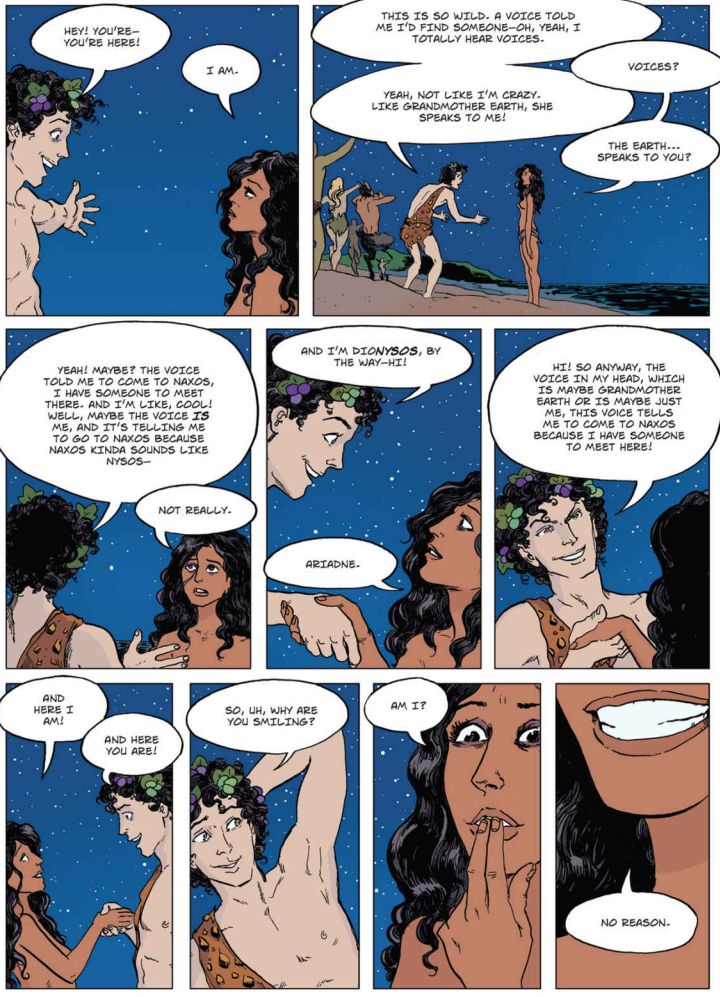
THE WAY HE MADE THOSE VINES GROW. THOSE BEAUTIFUL SPROUTS OF CURLING GREEN...
IT REMINDS ME OF OUR DAUGHTER, ZEUS.

I MISS PERSEPHONE, TOO, DEMETER.
SPRING IS NEARLY UPON US. SHE'LL BE BACK SOON.

WOW, THAT WAS SURPRISINGLY CATHARTIC! ANYTHING TO ADD, ARES?
FEH, I JUST WISH THERE WAS A BIG FIGHT.


NAXOS
I DIDN'T CRY FOR THE LOSS OF THE LOVE OF THE MAN, THE PRINCE OF ATHENS WITH EYES THE SAME COLOR AS THE SEA.
THAT MAN HAD LONG SINCE PROVEN HIMSELF TO BE A MONSTER, AS SURELY AS IF HE HAD THE HEAD OF A BULL. HE WAS NOT WORTHY OF MY LOVE, AND NOT WORTHY OF MY TEARS.
I CRIED FOR THE LIFE I LOST BECAUSE OF THAT MAN.
I CRIED FOR MY FATHER AND BROTHER I BETRAYED.
I CRIED AT THE MEMORY OF PORPOISES FROLICKING UNDER THE CRETAN SUN. I CRIED AT THE MEMORY OF YOUTHS VAULTING OVER THE HORNS OF BULLS.
I CRIED AT MY WORLD, LOST. BECAUSE OF THAT MAN.

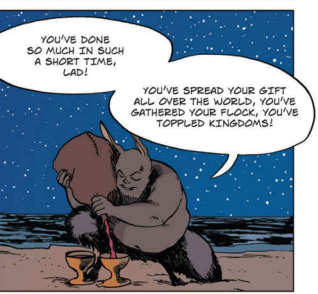
WHOA!


HEY! YOU'RE— YOU'RE HERE!
I AM.
THIS IS SO WILD. A VOICE TOLD ME I'D FIND SOMEONE—OH, YEAH, I TOTALLY HEAR VOICES.
VOICES?
YEAH, NOT LIKE I'M CRAZY. LIKE GRANDMOTHER EARTH, SHE SPEAKS TO ME!
THE EARTH... SPEAKS TO YOU?
YEAH! MAYBE? THE VOICE TOLD ME TO COME TO NAXOS, I HAVE SOMEONE TO MEET THERE. AND I'M LIKE, COOL! WELL, MAYBE THE VOICE IS ME, AND IT'S TELLING ME TO GO TO NAXOS BECAUSE NAXOS KINDA SOUNDS LIKE NYSOS—
NOT REALLY.
AND I'M DIONYSOS, BY THE WAY—HI!
ARIADNE.
HI! SO ANYWAY, THE VOICE IN MY HEAD, WHICH IS MAYBE GRANDMOTHER EARTH OR IS MAYBE JUST ME, THIS VOICE TELLS ME TO COME TO NAXOS BECAUSE I HAVE SOMEONE TO MEET HERE!
AND HERE I AM!
AND HERE YOU ARE!
SO, UH, WHY ARE YOU SMILING?
AM I?
NO REASON.

DIONYSOS AND I WERE WED THAT VERY NIGHT.
I'D ALREADY LOST AN ENTIRE WORLD ONCE. AND FOR TOO LONG AFTER THAT, MY ONLY WORLD WAS NAXOS.

A WHOLE NEW WORLD OPENED UP FOR ME AT DIONYSOS'S SIDE.
AND LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO WAIT, YOU KNOW?

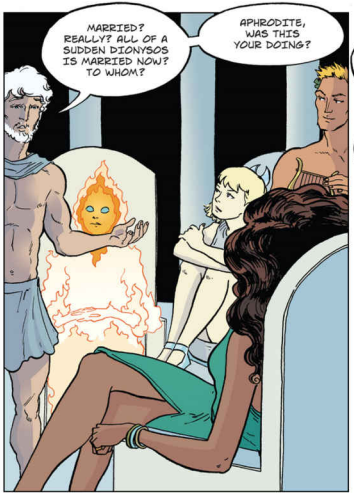
SILENOS!
LOOK AT THE HAPPY COUPLE! THIS OLD GOAT COULDN'T BE HAPPIER FOR YOU CRAZY KIDS!


YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH IN SUCH A SHORT TIME, LAD!
YOU'VE SPREAD YOUR GIFT ALL OVER THE WORLD, YOU'VE GATHERED YOUR FLOCK, YOU'VE TOPPLED KINGDOMS!

YOU'VE EVEN FOUND LOVE!
WHAT ON GRANDMOTHER EARTH WILL YOU DO NEXT?

I'M GLAD YOU ASKED, SILENOS.
I LOOK AROUND ME, AND I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THOSE WHO AREN'T WITH US ANYMORE.

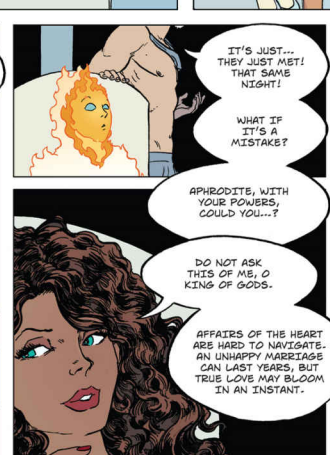
SILENOS, OLD MAN, I'M GOING TO CONQUER DEATH.


MARRIED? REALLY? ALL OF A SUDDEN DIONYSOS IS MARRIED NOW? TO WHOM?
APHRODITE, WAS THIS YOUR DOING?

MOST ASSUREDLY NOT. YOUNG LOVE CAN SPRING UP ANYWHERE AND GROW UNCHECKED, LIKE A WEED... OR A VINE.
BUT SHE'S A LOVELY GIRL, ZEUS. A CRETAN PRINCESS. YOU SHOULD BE VERY HAPPY FOR THEM.
AND IT WAS A BIT RUSTIC FOR MY TASTES, BUT BY ALL ACCOUNTS IT WAS A LOVELY WEDDING.

WEDDINGS AREN'T USUALLY MY THING, BUT I HAVE TO AGREE.
IT'S WHAT THEY WANTED, WHAT THEY CHOSE. YOU HAVE TO RESPECT THAT.

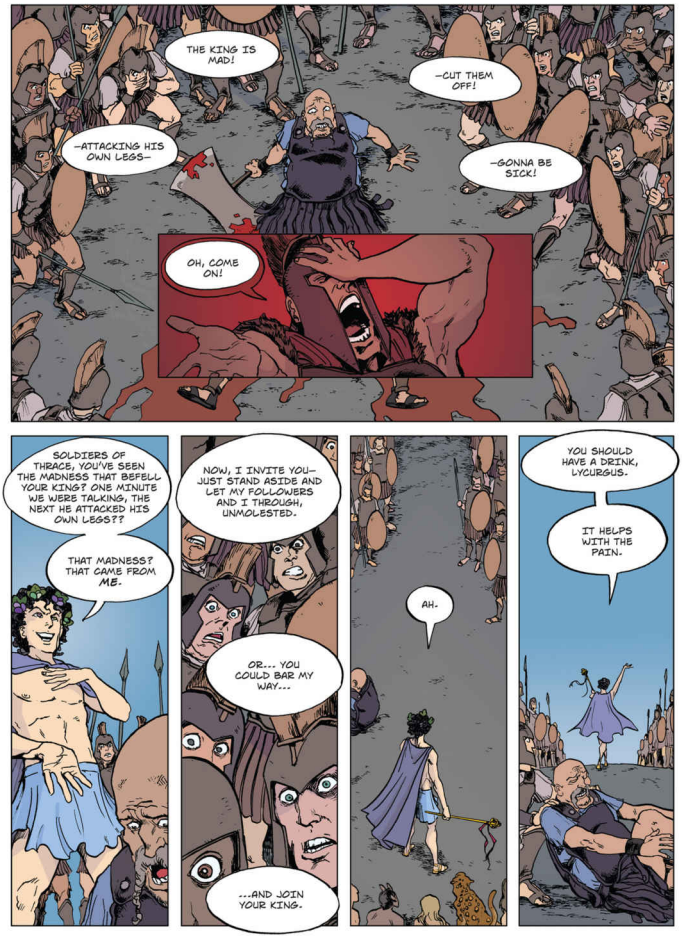
I THINK THEY COULD HAVE USED BETTER MUSIC. MAYBE I'LL GO DOWN THERE AND PLAY FOR THEM—
APOLLO, NO.


IT'S JUST... THEY JUST MET! THAT SAME NIGHT!
WHAT IF IT'S A MISTAKE?
APHRODITE, WITH YOUR POWERS, COULD YOU...?
DO NOT ASK THIS OF ME, O KING OF GODS.
AFFAIRS OF THE HEART ARE HARD TO NAVIGATE. AN UNHAPPY MARRIAGE CAN LAST YEARS, BUT TRUE LOVE MAY BLOOM IN AN INSTANT.

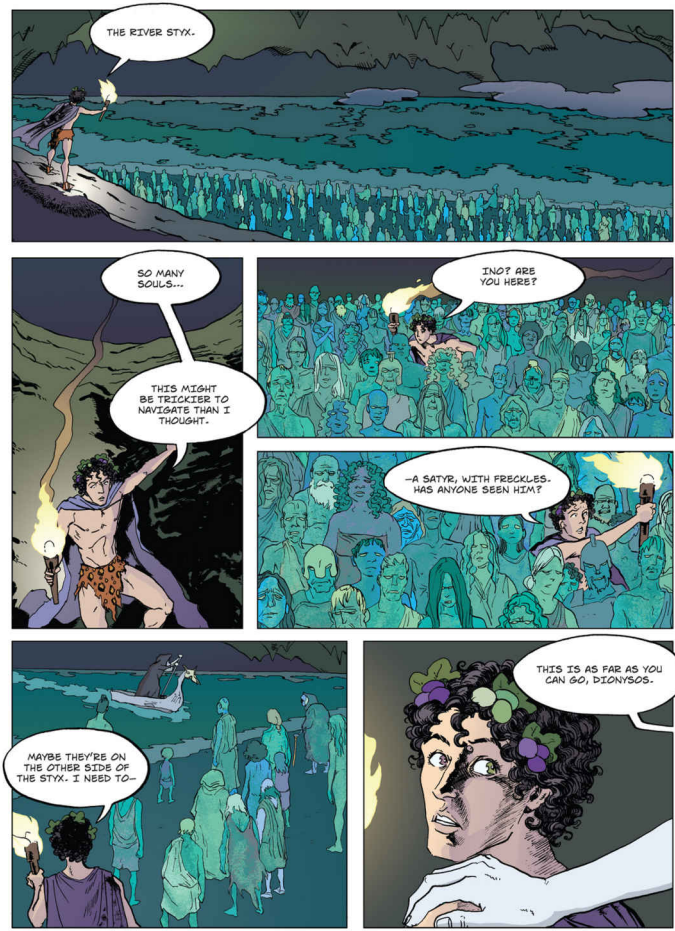
IN ORDER FOR DIONYSOS TO MATURE, HIS MISTAKES, AND HIS TRIUMPHS, MUST BE HIS OWN.

THRACE, AGAIN
I'VE HEARD WHAT YOU'VE DONE IN ATHENS. IN BOEOTIA.
IN THEBES, PENTHEUS TORN TO SHREDS BY AN ARMY OF HIS OWN WOMEN.
AND DON'T YOU SUPPOSE HEARING SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD MAKE YOU INCLINED TO GIVE ME FREE PASSAGE?
FUNNY.
WE THRACIANS HAVE NO ROOM FOR YOU OR YOUR WICKED DRINK.
I GET IT, LYSEY. I REALLY DO. I TRIED WITH YOU ALREADY; MY GIFT IS NOT FOR EVERYONE.
MY CREW AND I ARE JUST PASSING THROUGH, ON OUR WAY TO THE UNDERWORLD.
OH, YOU'LL GET TO THE UNDERWORLD, BUT NOT HOW YOU'D LIKE!
ATTACK!
YES!
FINALLY!

UNGH!
GROWL!
HAHAHAHA!
ERK!
AIEEE!
FALL BACK! RETREAT!
RETREAT? IN MY OWN KINGDOM?! NEVER!
COME ON, THEN!
COME ON!!


THE KING IS MAD!
–CUT THEM OFF!
–ATTACKING HIS OWN LEGS–
–GONNA BE SICK!
OH, COME ON!
SOLDIERS OF THRACE, YOU'VE SEEN THE MADNESS THAT BEFELL YOUR KING? ONE MINUTE WE WERE TALKING, THE NEXT HE ATTACKED HIS OWN LEGS??
THAT MADNESS? THAT CAME FROM ME.
NOW, I INVITE YOU– JUST STAND ASIDE AND LET MY FOLLOWERS AND I THROUGH, UNMOLESTED.
OR... YOU COULD BAR MY WAY...
...AND JOIN YOUR KING.
AH.
YOU SHOULD HAVE A DRINK, LYCURGUS.
IT HELPS WITH THE PAIN.

THE GATES OF THE UNDERWORLD
LET THIS TORCH LIGHT YOUR WAY, DIONYSOS.
I WOULD GO WITH YOU IF I COULD.
AND I TOTALLY COULD.
BUT I WON'T.
YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?
YEAH, ACTUALLY, I DO.
I MUST MAKE THIS JOURNEY ALONE.
I MUST TRAVEL DOWN, DEEP...
...AS DEEP BELOW AS THE HEAVENS ABOVE ARE HIGH.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE ALL MY LOVED ONES AGAIN!
I'LL BRING THEM ALL BACK WITH ME! BACK FROM THEIR UNJUST ENDS!
THROUGH ME, DEATH WILL BE DEAD!


THE RIVER STYX.
SO MANY SOULS...
THIS MIGHT BE TRICKIER TO NAVIGATE THAN I THOUGHT.
INO? ARE YOU HERE?
—A SATYR, WITH FRECKLES. HAS ANYONE SEEN HIM?
MAYBE THEY'RE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STYX. I NEED TO—
THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU CAN GO, DIONYSOS.

HADES! AND PERSEPHONE!
YOU ARE TO BE COMMENDED, NEPHEW. YOU HAVE TRAVELED FAR— AS FAR AS ANY LIVING BEING CAN TRAVEL.
ONLY MY QUEEN, MYSELF, AND HERMES PSYCHOPOMPOS CAN FREELY GO FARTHER.
FOR THE SHADES OF THE RECENTLY DEAD, THE RIVER STYX CAN ONLY BE TRAVERSED BY A RIDE WITH CHARON THE FERRYMAN.
THAT IS A PATH NO LIVING BEING, GOD OR OTHERWISE, CAN TAKE.
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STYX IS THE RIVER LETHE.
TO DRINK OF THE WATERS OF THE LETHE IS TO FORGET WHO YOU ARE, AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT THE SHADES THAT CROSS THE STYX DO.
THEY ARE REBORN ANEW, BUT EVERYTHING THEY WERE, EVERYTHING THEY KNEW, ALL THEIR LOVES, HOPES, AND DREAMS—THEY ARE ALL WASHED AWAY.
EVEN IF YOU COULD CROSS THE STYX, TO BRING THEM BACK WOULD BE POINTLESS. THEY ARE NO LONGER THE PEOPLE YOU KNEW.

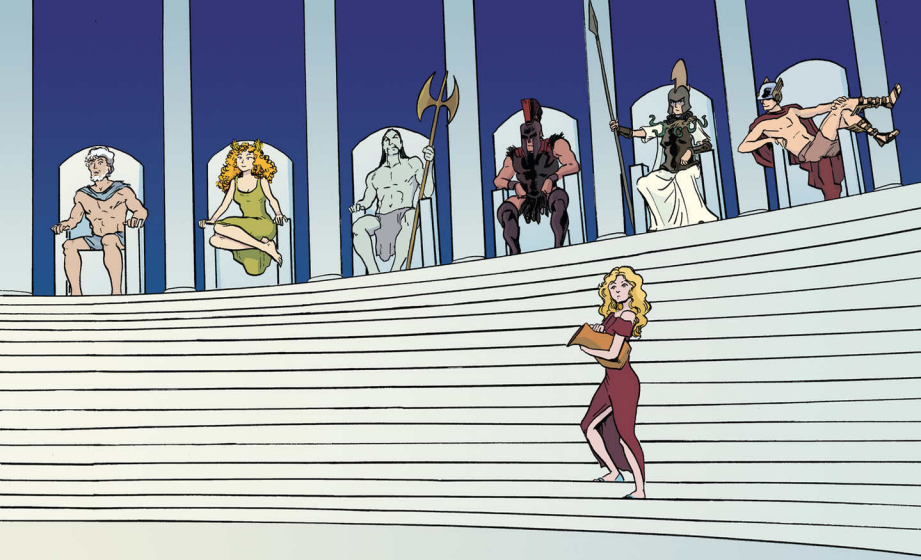
...SO I'M TOO LATE?
EVERYONE WHO DIED—MY BROTHERS, INO... AMPELOS? THEY'RE REALLY GONE?
ACTUALLY...
THERE IS SOMEONE HERE YOU CAN HELP.
YOU SEE, WHEN SOMEONE DIES, IT IS NOT A FREE TRIP ACROSS THE STYX.
THEY NEED A COIN AS PAYMENT FOR CHARON TO CROSS.
A PERSON'S LOVED ONES TYPICALLY PLACE THE COIN IN THE MOUTH OF THE DECEASED.
BUT WHAT IF THERE'S NO COIN?
NO ONE LEFT A COIN FOR HER. HER FAMILY THOUGHT SHE SIMPLY DISAPPEARED.
IN TRUTH, THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT OF HER TO LEAVE A COIN IN.
DIONYSOS, MEET YOUR MOTHER.

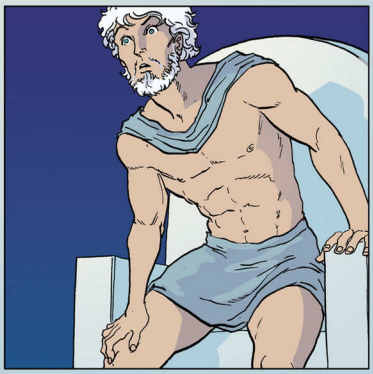
YOU KNOW THIS STORY ALREADY.
GAEA BEGAT OURANOS, THE SKY.
GAEA MADE OURANOS HER HUSBAND, AND HE FATHERED HER CHILDREN, THE TITANS, THE GODS OF TIME.
AND THE TITANS OVERTHREW OURANOS.
AND THE TITANS BEGAT THE OLYMPIANS, AND THE OLYMPIANS OVERTHREW THE TITANS.
WE SET OURSELVES ABOVE THE HUMANS, ON THRONES IN PALACES IN THE SKY.
WE OLYMPIANS ARE ETERNAL. PERFECT. UNDYING.
SO MUCH OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN WILL FOREVER BE DENIED US.

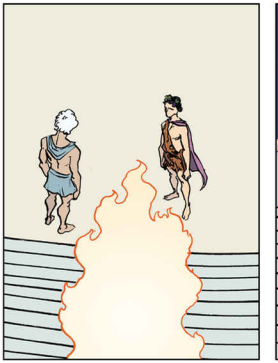
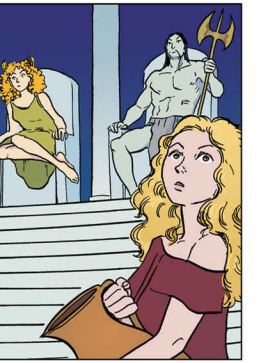
THE OLYMPIANS MAY BE DEATHLESS, BUT NO GOD IS AS ALIVE AS DIONYSOS.

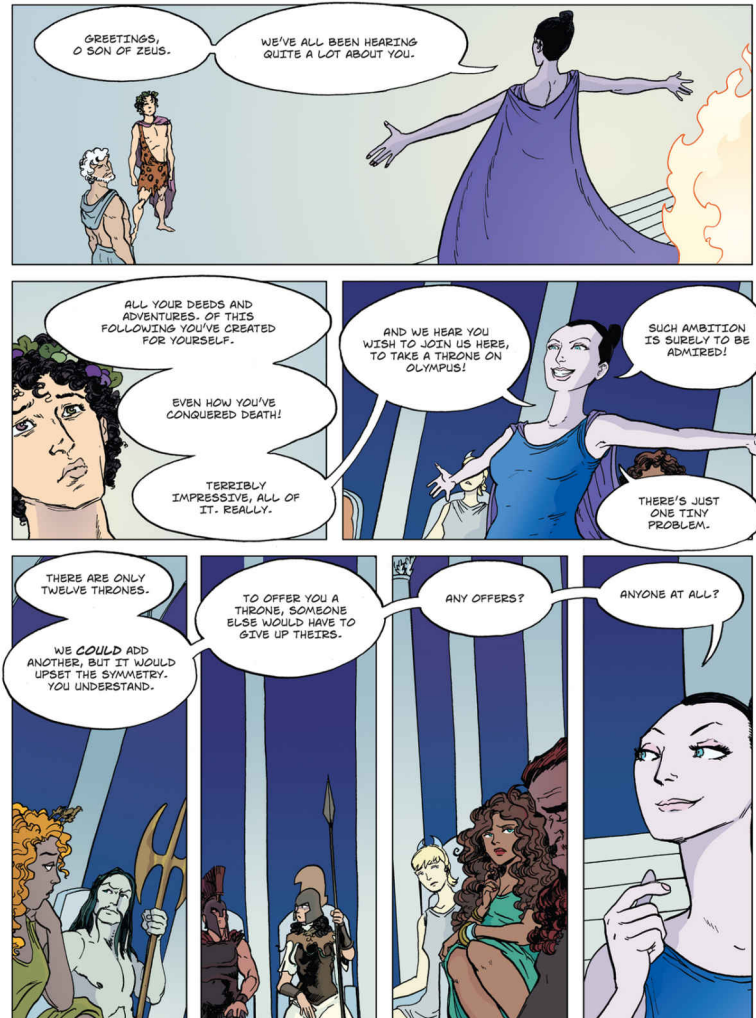
DIONYSOS, MORE THAN ANY OTHER, WAS A GOD OF THE PEOPLE. OF HUMANS.
BECAUSE HE WAS BORN OF THEM.

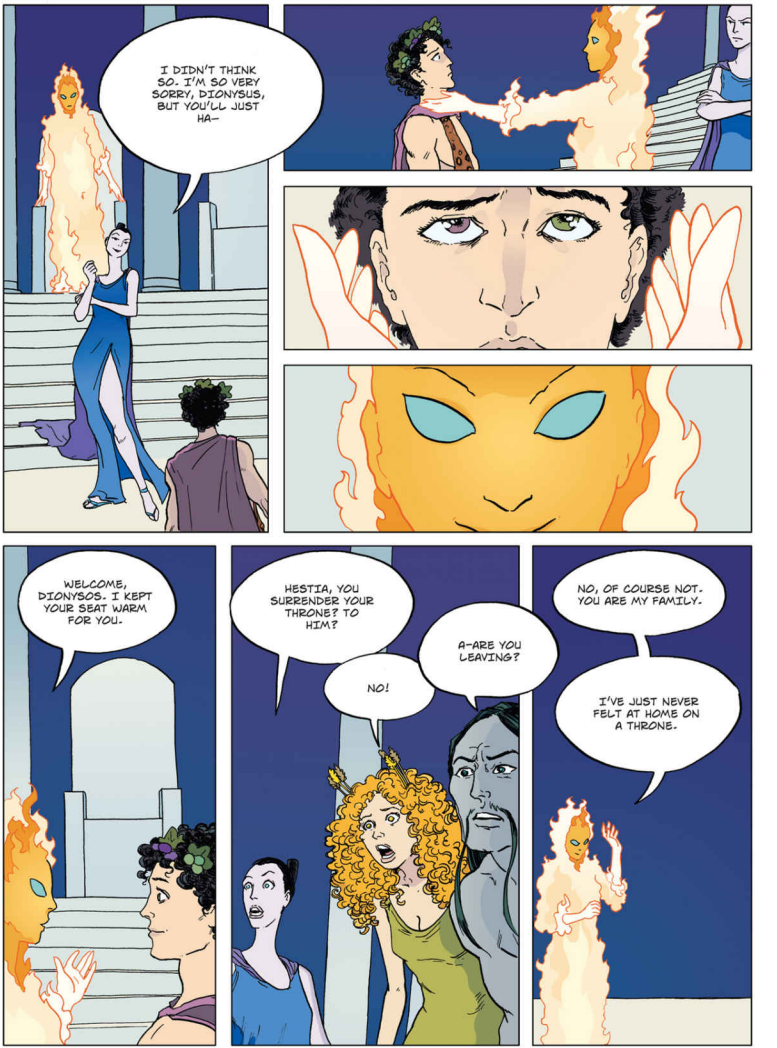
A NEW TYPE OF GOD.

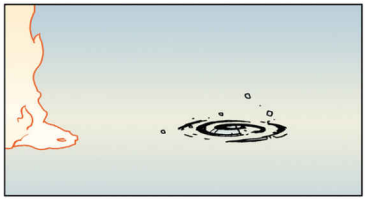


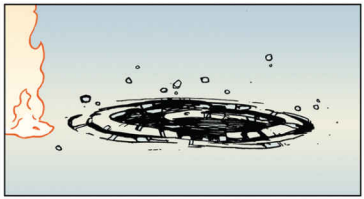


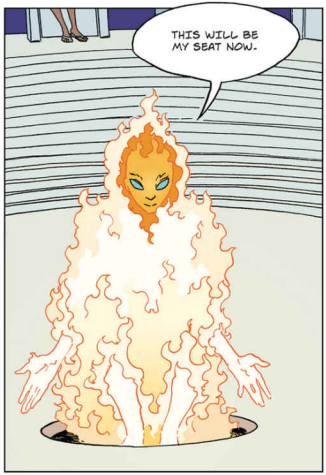




GREETINGS, O SON OF ZEUS.
WE'VE ALL BEEN HEARING QUITE A LOT ABOUT YOU.
ALL YOUR DEEDS AND ADVENTURES. OF THIS FOLLOWING YOU'VE CREATED FOR YOURSELF.
EVEN HOW YOU'VE CONQUERED DEATH!
TERRIBLY IMPRESSIVE, ALL OF IT. REALLY.
AND WE HEAR YOU WISH TO JOIN US HERE, TO TAKE A THRONE ON OLYMPUS!
SUCH AMBITION IS SURELY TO BE ADMIRED!
THERE'S JUST ONE TINY PROBLEM.
THERE ARE ONLY TWELVE THRONES.
WE *COULD* ADD ANOTHER, BUT IT WOULD UPSET THE SYMMETRY. YOU UNDERSTAND.
TO OFFER YOU A THRONE, SOMEONE ELSE WOULD HAVE TO GIVE UP THEIRS.
ANY OFFERS?
ANYONE AT ALL?


I DIDN'T THINK SO. I'M SO VERY SORRY, DIONYSUS, BUT YOU'LL JUST HA–
WELCOME, DIONYSOS. I KEPT YOUR SEAT WARM FOR YOU.
HESTIA, YOU SURRENDER YOUR THRONE? TO HIM?
A–ARE YOU LEAVING?
NO!
NO, OF COURSE NOT. YOU ARE MY FAMILY.
I'VE JUST NEVER FELT AT HOME ON A THRONE.





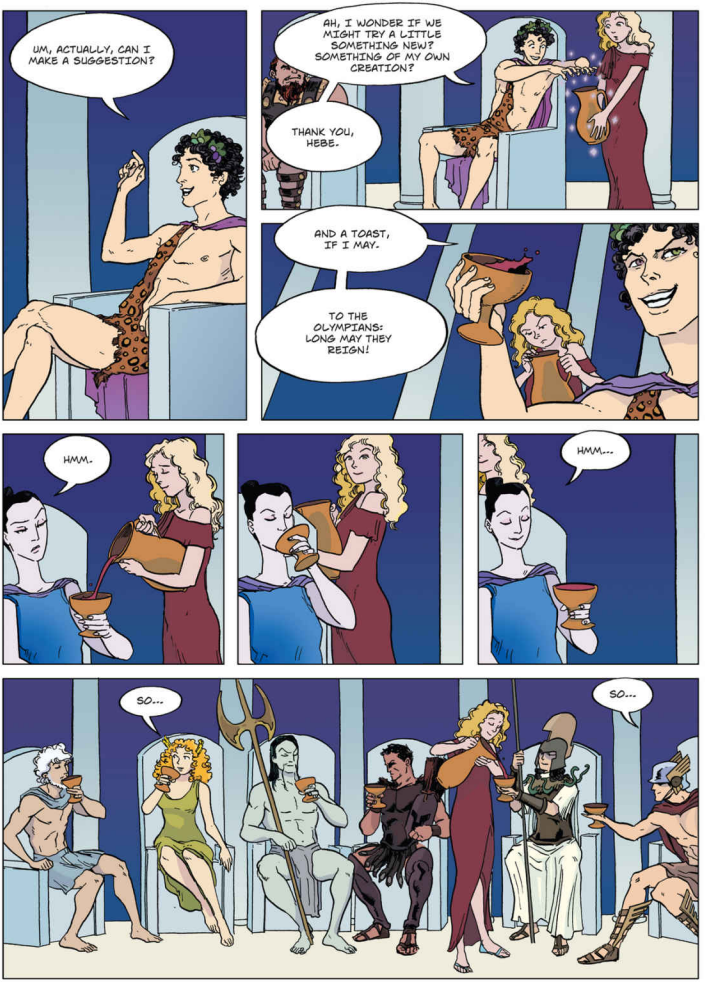

THIS WILL BE MY SEAT NOW.

AND I GUESS THIS WILL BE MINE! A BIT AUSTERE, BUT COMFY.
SYMMETRY PRESERVED AND EVERYTHING! MANY THANKS, AUNT HESTIA!

SO, I SUPPOSE THAT'S SETTLED, THEN.

I SUPPOSE...?

SIIIIGH.
I SUPPOSE.
I NEED SOME WATER. HEBE?


UM, ACTUALLY, CAN I MAKE A SUGGESTION?
AH, I WONDER IF WE MIGHT TRY A LITTLE SOMETHING NEW? SOMETHING OF MY OWN CREATION?
THANK YOU, HEBE.
AND A TOAST, IF I MAY.
TO THE OLYMPIANS: LONG MAY THEY REIGN!
HMM.
HMM...
SO...
SO...

SO... HAVE YOU ALL HEARD ABOUT THIS GUY SISYPHUS? OH, MAN, THIS STORY IS NUTS!
GO ON...

THERE HAD BEEN TWELVE OLYMPIANS— TWELVE PERFECT, IMPERFECT GODS, LIVING IN ASSUMED HUMAN FORMS.
MY FAMILY.

CHANGING AND GROWING, LAUGHING AND LOVING, FIGHTING AND FLIRTING.

ALL AROUND ME THEY GATHER, AND OLD TALES ARE TOLD. NEW STORIES UNFOLD.

AND I SIT,
AND I WATCH.
AND I LISTEN.

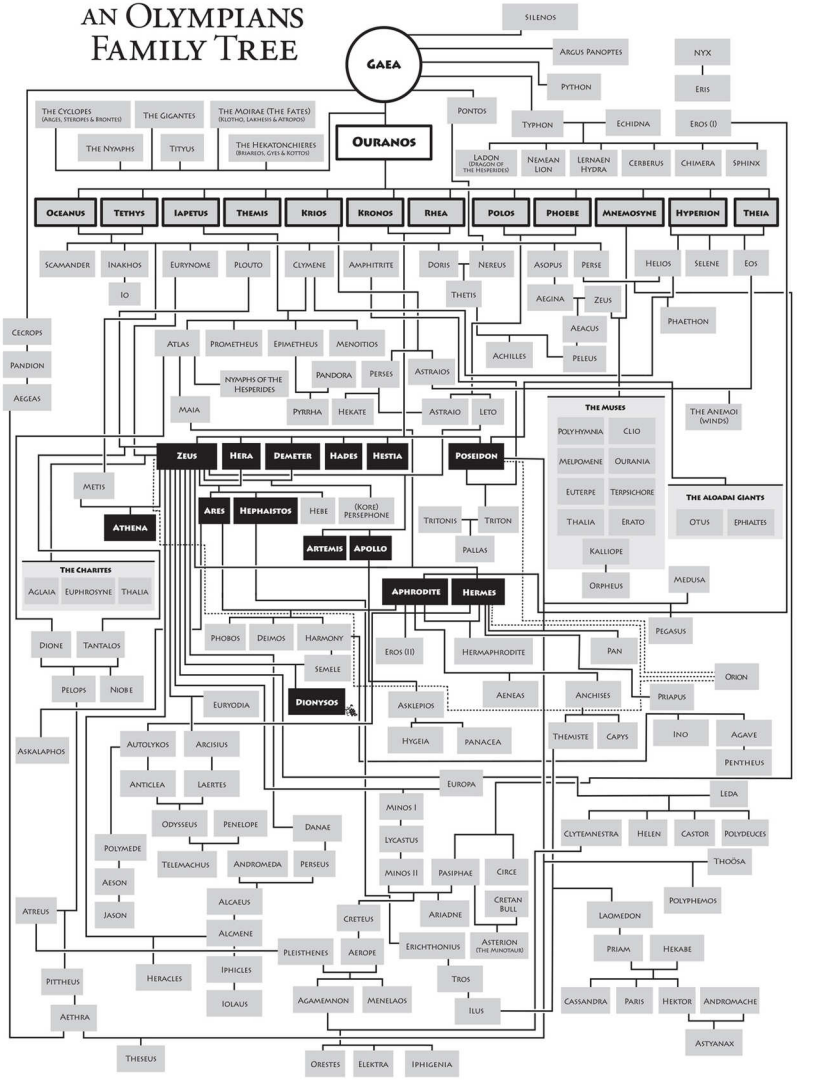
AUTHOR'S
NOTE

GREEK NOTES

:01

First Second

AN OLYMPIANS FAMILY TREE



:01

First Second

GEORGE O'CONNOR

DIONYSOS

THE NEW GOD

:01
First Second
New York

BORN FROM THE THIGH OF ZEUS AND A MORTAL MOTHER. Dionysos is, just maybe, the first of a new type of God. His story is told by the first Olympian herself, Hestia, Goddess of the hearth and home. From her seat in the center of Olympus, Hestia brings the Olympians saga to a close with the story of Dionysos's discovery of wine, battles with madness and conquering of death itself, and, finally, his ascent to Olympus and Godhood.

OLYMPIANS

THE NEW GOD

Get ready for adventures you've only dreamed of as the Greek gods come to explosive life in OLYMPIANS. Epic battles, daring quests, and terrible monsters await you . . .

WWW.OLYMPIANSRULE.COM